

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1484

Entitled the “Blind Justice Act of 1999”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 4, 1999

Mr. SPECTER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

Entitled the “Blind Justice Act of 1999”.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This act may be cited as the
5 “Blind Justice Act of 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. ASSIGNMENT OF CASES IN DISTRICT COURT.**

7 Title 28, United States Code is amended—

8 (1) in section 137 as follows:

9 (A) By adding the words, “Except as pro-
10 vided below,” at the beginning of the first para-
11 graph.

1 (B) By deleting the words “and assign the
2 cases” in the middle of the second paragraph.

3 (C) By inserting the following new para-
4 graphs at the end of the section:

5 “Except as provided below, the chief judge of the dis-
6 trict court shall assign all cases by means of an automated
7 random assignment program provided by the Administra-
8 tive Office of the United States Courts.

9 “Notwithstanding the foregoing, the chief judge of
10 the district court may directly assign related cases and
11 technical cases to a specific judge without using the auto-
12 mated random assignment program. The chief judge may
13 directly assign a related case only to a judge who is hear-
14 ing or has heard a case or cases to which the new case
15 relates. The chief judge may directly assign a technical
16 case only to a judge who has significant experience with
17 the subject matter at issue.

18 “For purposes of this section, a “related case” is a
19 case which involves substantially the same facts, individ-
20 uals, and/or property as a case previously or contempora-
21 neously before the court.

22 “For purposes of this section, a “technical case” is
23 a case which involves specialized, unusually complex facts
24 or subject matter and which would demand a significant
25 investment of time for a judge to master.”

1 **SEC. 3. ASSIGNMENT OF CASES IN CIRCUIT COURT.**

2 Title 28, United States Code is amended—

3 (1) in section 46 as follows:

4 (A) By adding the words, “in accordance
5 with the procedures outlined in Section 46(e),”
6 at the end of Section 46(a).

7 (B) By adding the words “In accordance
8 with the procedures outlined in Section 46(a)”
9 at the beginning of Section 46(b).

10 (C) By inserting the following new Section
11 46(e) at the end of the section:

12 “Except as provided below, the chief judge of the cir-
13 cuit court shall assign all cases by means of an automated
14 random assignment program provided by the Administra-
15 tive Office of the United States Courts.

16 “Notwithstanding the foregoing, the chief judge of
17 the circuit court may directly assign related cases and
18 technical cases to a specific judge or judges without using
19 the automated random assignment program. The chief
20 judge may directly assign a related case only to a judge
21 or judges who are hearing or have heard a case or cases
22 to which the new case relates. The chief judge may directly
23 assign a technical case only to a judge or judges who have
24 significant experience with the subject matter at issue.

25 “For purposes of this section, a “related case” is a
26 case which involves substantially the same facts, individ-

1 uals, and/or property as a case previously or contempora-
2 neously before the court.

3 “For purposes of this section, a “technical case” is
4 a case which involves specialized, unusually complex facts
5 or subject matter and which would demand a significant
6 investment of time for a judge to master.”

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