

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                                   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                                   2nd Session of the 56th Legislature (2018)

4 HOUSE  
5 RESOLUTION 1025

By: Ritze

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8                                   AS INTRODUCED

9                   A Resolution petitioning the Trial Division of the  
10                   Court on the Judiciary to assume jurisdiction and  
11                   institute proceedings for the removal of a certain  
12                   judge from office; and directing distribution.

13                   WHEREAS, the Code of Judicial Conduct for Oklahoma judges  
14                   provides that an independent and honorable judiciary is  
15                   indispensable to justice in our society and that a judge should  
16                   participate in establishing, maintaining and enforcing high  
17                   standards of conduct; and

18                   WHEREAS, personal observation of high standards is critical so  
19                   that the integrity and independence of the judiciary will be  
20                   preserved; and

21                   WHEREAS, the Code of Judicial Conduct for Oklahoma judges  
22                   further provides that a judge should respect and comply with the law  
23                   and act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in  
24                   the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary; and

1       WHEREAS, District Judge Wallace Coppedge, Marshall County Judge  
2 of the Twentieth Judicial District, exercising judicial power under  
3 the Oklahoma Constitution and laws of the State of Oklahoma, has  
4 wholly failed to comply with certain provisions of the Code of  
5 Judicial Conduct by authorizing the plea bargain negotiated between  
6 the prosecution and attorneys for the defendant in the criminal case  
7 of State of Oklahoma vs. Benjamin Lawrence Petty, Murray County  
8 District Court Case Number CF-2016-00159; and

9       WHEREAS, the failure of District Judge Wallace Coppedge to  
10 reject the terms of the negotiated plea bargain constitutes a gross  
11 neglect of duty; and

12       WHEREAS, Section 1 of Article VII-A of the Oklahoma Constitution  
13 provides that the judges of any court, exercising judicial power  
14 under the provisions of Article VII, or under any other provision of  
15 the Oklahoma Constitution, shall be subject to removal from office  
16 by proceedings in the Court on the Judiciary; and

17       WHEREAS, Section 1 of Article VII-A of the Oklahoma Constitution  
18 provides certain causes for the removal of a judge from office,  
19 which includes gross neglect of duty; and

20       WHEREAS, the Court on the Judiciary, created pursuant to Section  
21 2 of Article VII-A of the Oklahoma Constitution, is vested with sole  
22 and exclusive jurisdiction to hear and determine causes concerning  
23 the removal of judges from office; and

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1       WHEREAS, jurisdiction of the Trial Division of the Court on the  
2 Judiciary may be invoked and proceedings commenced upon the filing  
3 of a Resolution of the House of Representatives of the State of  
4 Oklahoma.

5       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
6 OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 56TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

7       THAT pursuant to Section 4 of Article VII-A of the Oklahoma  
8 Constitution, the House of Representatives of the State of Oklahoma  
9 petitions the Trial Division of the Court on the Judiciary to assume  
10 jurisdiction and institute proceedings to remove District Judge  
11 Wallace Coppedge, Marshall County Judge of the Twentieth Judicial  
12 District from office for gross neglect of duty which, pursuant to  
13 Section 1 of Article VII-A of the Oklahoma Constitution, shall be  
14 cause for removal from such office.

15       THAT a copy of this resolution be dispatched to each member of  
16 the Court on the Judiciary, the Clerk of the Oklahoma Supreme Court  
17 and the Administrative Director of the Courts.

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19 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.  
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