

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 1081 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/4/15 H3/10/15 H3/13/15 S3/25/15*

90th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2015

HOUSE BILL 1532

By: Representatives Vines, Richey, B. Overbey, Ratliff, Neal, *Bennett*

By: Senators B. Sample, E. Cheatham, S. Flowers, Burnett, J. Hutchinson, J. Woods

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE DISTRICT COURT SYSTEM;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING THE STATE DISTRICT COURT
SYSTEM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 16-17-1110(9), concerning the effective date the Eighteenth Judicial District for state district courts shall be composed of Mississippi County, is amended to read as follows:

~~(9)(A) *The Eighteenth District is composed of Mississippi County, Chickasawba District.*~~

~~(B) *Beginning January 1, 2021 2017, the Eighteenth District shall be composed of the Chickasawba District and the Osceola District in Mississippi County.*~~

~~(G)(B) *The Eighteenth District has five (5) departments in the Chickasawba District as follows:*~~

- ~~(i) *One (1) located in Blytheville;*~~
- ~~(ii) *One (1) located in Manila;*~~
- ~~(iii) *One (1) located in Leachville;*~~
- ~~(iv) *One (1) located in Gosnell; and*~~
- ~~(v) *One (1) located in Dell.*~~

~~(D)(C) *Beginning January 1, 2021, the The Eighteenth District shall have has two (2) additional departments in the Osceola*~~



District as follows:

(i) One (1) located in Osceola; and

(ii) One (1) located in Joiner.

~~(E)(D)~~ The Eighteenth District is served by one (1) state district court judge until January 1, 2021, when the district shall be served by two (2) state district court judges, with one (1) elected from the Chickasawba District and one (1) elected from the Osceola District.

~~(F)~~ The Eighteenth District judges are elected districtwide.

~~(G)(E)~~ The Each district court within the Eighteenth District court has district-wide only has jurisdiction within each of the district court's respective district;

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 16-17-1112 is amended to read as follows:

16-17-1112. Reorganization of local district courts to state district courts as of January 1, 2017.

(a)(1) Beginning January 1, 2017, the following cities and counties that are currently served by local district courts pursuant to § 16-17-901 et seq. shall be reorganized as state district courts and served by a state district court judge.

(2) The new state district court judgeships created by this section shall become effective January 1, 2017, and shall be placed on the ballot to be elected in the 2016 nonpartisan judicial election from the newly constructed judicial district.

(3) The cities and counties which were previously served by local district courts and will be served by state district courts shall comply with the cost-sharing requirements established in § 16-17-1106, effective January 1, 2017.

(b)(1)(A) The Second District shall be composed of Washington County and the city limits of Springdale as of January 1, 2011, including that portion of the City of Springdale which extends into Benton County.

(B) The Second District shall have ten (10) departments as follows:

(i) One (1) located in Springdale;

(ii) One (1) located in Elm Springs;

(iii) One (1) located in Johnson;

- (iv) One (1) located in Fayetteville;
- (v) One (1) located in Elkins;
- (vi) One (1) located in West Fork;
- (vii) One (1) located in Greenland;
- (viii) One (1) located in Prairie Grove;
- (ix) One (1) located in Lincoln; and
- (x) One (1) located in Farmington.

(C) The Second District shall be served by four (4) state district court judges;

- (i) One (1) judgeship first to be elected in 2016 and to become effective January 1, 2017, shall be designated as Division 1;
- (ii) One (1) judgeship first to be elected in 2016 and to become effective January 1, 2017, shall be designated as Division 2;
- (iii) One (1) judgeship first to be elected in 2016 and to become effective January 1, 2017, shall be designated as Division 3; and

(iv) One (1) judgeship first to be elected in 2016 and to become effective January 1, 2017, shall be designated as Division 4.

(D) The presiding judge of the departments under subdivision (b)(3)(B) of this section shall be determined by the mutual agreement of the state district court judges.

(E) The Second District judges shall be elected districtwide.

(F) The Second District court shall have district-wide jurisdiction.

(2)(A) The Third District shall be composed of the counties of Carroll and Madison.

(B) The Third District shall have three (3) departments as follows:

- (i) One (1) located in Berryville;
- (ii) One (1) located in Eureka Springs; and
- (iii) One (1) located in Huntsville.

(C) The Third District shall be served by one (1) state district court judge.

(D) The Third District judge shall be elected districtwide.

(E) The Third District court shall have district-wide jurisdiction.

~~(3)(A) The Seventh District shall be composed of the counties of Franklin and Johnson.~~

~~(B) The Seventh District shall have six (6) departments as follows:~~

~~(i) One (1) located in Charleston;~~

~~(ii) One (1) located in Ozark;~~

~~(iii) One (1) located in Altus;~~

~~(iv) One (1) located in Clarksville;~~

~~(v) One (1) located in Coal Hill; and~~

~~(vi) One (1) located in Lamar.~~

~~(C) The Seventh District shall be served by one (1) state district court judge.~~

~~(D) The Seventh District judge shall be elected districtwide.~~

~~(E) The Seventh District court shall have district-wide jurisdiction.~~

~~(4)(A)~~(3)(A) The Twenty-Seventh District shall be composed of the counties of Desha and Chicot.

(B) The Twenty-Seventh District shall have five (5) departments as follows:

(i) One (1) located in Dermott;

(ii) One (1) located in Eudora;

(iii) One (1) located in Lake Village;

(iv) One (1) located in Dumas; and

(v) One (1) located in McGehee.

(C) The Twenty-Seventh District shall be served by one (1) state district court judge.

(D) The Twenty-Seventh District judge shall be elected districtwide.

(E) The Twenty-Seventh District court shall have district-wide jurisdiction.

~~(5)(A) The Thirtieth District shall be composed of Lonoke County.~~

~~(B) The Thirtieth District shall have seven (7)~~

~~departments as follows:~~

- ~~(i) One (1) located in Cabot;~~
- ~~(ii) One (1) located in Ward;~~
- ~~(iii) One (1) located in Austin;~~
- ~~(iv) One (1) located in Lonoke;~~
- ~~(v) One (1) located in England;~~
- ~~(vi) One (1) located in Carlisle; and~~
- ~~(vii) One (1) located in Allport.~~

~~(C) The Thirtieth District shall be served by one (1) state district court judge.~~

~~(D) The Thirtieth District judge shall be elected districtwide.~~

~~(E) The Thirtieth District court shall have district-wide jurisdiction.~~

~~(6)(A) The Forty-First District shall be composed of Garland County.~~

~~(B) The Forty-First District shall have three (3) departments as follows:~~

- ~~(i) Two (2) located in Hot Springs; and~~
- ~~(ii) One (1) located in Mountain Pine.~~

~~(C) The Forty-First District shall be served by two (2) state district court judges.~~

~~(D) The Forty-First District judges shall be elected districtwide.~~

~~(E) The Forty-First District court shall have district-wide jurisdiction.~~

~~(7)(A)~~ (4)(A) The Thirty-Third District shall be composed of the counties of Grant and Hot Spring.

(B) The Thirty-Third District shall have five (5) departments as follows:

- (i) One (1) located in Sheridan;
- (ii) One (1) located in Malvern;
- (iii) One (1) located in Donaldson;
- (iv) One (1) located in Friendship; and
- (v) One (1) located in Rockport.

(C) The Thirty-Third District shall be served by one (1)

state district court judge.

(D) The Thirty-Third District judge shall be elected districtwide.

(E) The Thirty-Third District court shall have district-wide jurisdiction.

(5)(A) The Twenty-Second District shall be composed of Lee and Phillips counties.

(B) The Twenty-Second District shall have five (5) departments as follows:

- (i) One (1) located in Marianna;
- (ii) One (1) located in Helena-West Helena;
- (iii) One (1) located in Lake View;
- (iv) One (1) located in Elaine; and
- (v) One (1) located in Marvell.

(C) The Twenty-Second District shall be served by one (1) state district court judge.

(D) The Twenty-Second District judge shall be elected districtwide.

(E) The Twenty-Second District courts shall have district-wide jurisdiction.

(6)(A) The Twenty-Sixth District shall be composed of Ashley County.

(B) The Twenty-Sixth District shall have two (2) departments as follows:

- (i) One (1) located in Crossett; and
- (ii) One (1) located in Hamburg.

(C) The Twenty-Sixth District shall be served by one (1) state district court judge.

(D) The Twenty-Sixth District judge shall be elected districtwide.

(E) The Twenty-Sixth District courts shall have district-wide jurisdiction; and

(7)(A) The Twenty-Eighth District shall be composed of Bradley and Drew counties.

(B) The Twenty-Eighth District shall have two (2) departments as follows:

(i) One (1) located in Monticello; and

(ii) One (1) located in Warren.

(C) The Twenty-Eighth District shall be served by one (1) state district court judge.

(D) The Twenty-Eighth District judge shall be elected districtwide.

(E) The Twenty-Eighth District courts shall have district-wide jurisdiction.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 16, Chapter 17, Subchapter 11, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

16-17-1113. Reorganization of local district courts to state district courts as of January 1, 2021.

(a)(1) Beginning January 1, 2021, the following cities and counties that are currently served by local district courts pursuant to § 16-17-901 et seq. shall be reorganized as state district courts and served by state district court judges as assigned.

(2) The new state district court judgeships created by this section shall become effective January 1, 2021, and shall be placed on the ballot to be elected in the 2020 nonpartisan judicial election from the newly constructed state district court district.

(3) The cities and counties that were previously served by local district courts and will be served by state district courts shall comply with the cost-sharing requirements established in § 16-17-1106, effective January 1, 2021.

(b)(1) The Seventh Judicial District shall be composed of the counties of Franklin and Johnson.

(2) The Seventh District shall have six (6) departments as follows:

(A) One (1) located in Charleston;

(B) One (1) located in Ozark;

(C) One (1) located in Altus;

(D) One (1) located in Clarksville;

(E) One (1) located in Coal Hill; and

(F) One (1) located in Lamar.

(3) The Seventh Judicial District shall be served by one (1)

state district court judge.

(4) The Seventh Judicial District judge shall be elected districtwide.

(5) The Seventh Judicial District court shall have district-wide jurisdiction.

(c)(1) The Eleventh Judicial District shall be composed of the counties of Randolph, Sharp, and Lawrence.

(2) The Eleventh District shall have seven (7) departments as follows:

- (A) One (1) located in Pocahontas;
- (B) One (1) located in Ash Flat;
- (C) One (1) located in Cherokee Village;
- (D) One (1) located in Walnut Ridge;
- (E) One (1) located in Hoxie;
- (F) One (1) located in Black Rock; and
- (G) One (1) located in Portia.

(3) The Eleventh Judicial District shall be served by two (2) state district court judges.

(4) The Eleventh Judicial District judges shall be elected districtwide.

(5) The Eleventh Judicial District courts shall have district-wide jurisdiction.

(d)(1) The Twelfth Judicial District shall be composed of the counties of Logan, Yell, and Conway.

(2) The Twelfth District shall have nine (9) departments as follows:

- (A) One (1) located in Morrilton;
- (B) One (1) located in Menifee;
- (C) One (1) located in Oppelo;
- (D) One (1) located in Paris;
- (E) One (1) located in Booneville;
- (F) One (1) located in Magazine;
- (G) One (1) located in Danville;
- (H) One (1) located in Plumerville; and
- (I) One (1) located in Dardanelle.

(3) The Twelfth Judicial District shall be served by one (1) state district court

judge.

(4) The Twelfth Judicial District judge shall be elected districtwide.

(5) The Twelfth Judicial District court shall have district-wide jurisdiction.

(e)(1) The Thirteenth District is composed of the counties of Stone and Cleburne.

(2) The Thirteenth District has five (5) departments as follows:

(A) One (1) located in Heber Springs;

(B) One (1) located in Greers Ferry;

(C) One (1) located in Concord;

(D) One (1) located in Quitman; and

(E) One (1) located in Mountain View.

(3) The Thirteenth District is served by one (1) state district court judge.

(4) The Thirteenth District judge is elected districtwide.

(5) The Thirteenth District court has district-wide jurisdiction.

(f)(1) The Fourteenth District is composed of the counties of Independence, Fulton, and Izard.

(2) The Fourteenth District has six (6) departments as follows:

(A) One (1) located in Batesville;

(B) One (1) located in Melbourne;

(C) One (1) located in Calico Rock;

(D) One (1) located in Horseshoe Bend;

(E) One (1) located in Salem; and

(F) One (1) located in Mammoth Spring.

(3) The Fourteenth District is served by one (1) state district court judge.

(4) The Fourteenth District judge is elected districtwide.

(5) The Fourteenth District court has district-wide jurisdiction.

(g)(1) The Fifteenth Judicial District shall be composed of the counties of Jackson and Woodruff.

(2) The Fifteenth District shall have eight (8) departments as follows:

(A) One (1) located in Newport;

(B) One (1) located in Diaz;

- (C) One (1) located in Swifton;
- (D) One (1) located in Tuckerman;
- (E) One (1) located in Augusta;
- (F) One (1) located in Cotton Plant;
- (G) One (1) located in McCrory; and
- (H) One (1) located in Patterson.

(3) The Fifteenth Judicial District shall be served by one (1) state district court judge.

(4) The Fifteenth Judicial District judge shall be elected districtwide.

(5) The Fifteenth Judicial District court shall have district-wide jurisdiction.

(h)(1) The Sixteenth Judicial District shall be composed of the counties of Monroe and Arkansas.

(2) The Sixteenth District shall have seven (7) departments as follows:

- (A) One (1) located in Stuttgart;
- (B) One (1) located in DeWitt;
- (C) One (1) located in Gillett;
- (D) One (1) located in St. Charles;
- (E) One (1) located in Brinkley;
- (F) One (1) located in Clarendon; and
- (G) One (1) located in Holly Grove.

(3) The Sixteenth Judicial District shall be served by one (1) state district court judge.

(4) The Sixteenth Judicial District judge shall be elected districtwide.

(5) The Sixteenth Judicial District court shall have district-wide jurisdiction.

(i)(1) The Seventeenth District is composed of the counties of Clay and Greene.

(2) The Seventeenth District has five (5) departments as follows:

- (A) One (1) located in Paragould;
- (B) One (1) located in Marmaduke;
- (C) One (1) located in Corning;
- (D) One (1) located in Piggott; and

(E) One (1) located in Rector.

(3) The Seventeenth District is served by one (1) state district court judge.

(4) The Seventeenth District judge is elected districtwide.

(5) The Seventeenth District court has district-wide jurisdiction.

(j)(1) The Twenty-Fourth Judicial District shall be composed of the counties of Scott, Polk, and Montgomery.

(2) The Twenty-Fourth Judicial District shall have three (3) departments as follows:

(A) One (1) located in Waldron;

(B) One (1) located in Mena; and

(C) One (1) located in Mt. Ida.

(3) The Twenty-Fourth Judicial District shall be served by one (1) state district court judge.

(4) The Twenty-Fourth Judicial District judge shall be elected districtwide.

(5) The Twenty-Fourth Judicial District courts shall have district-wide jurisdiction.

(k)(1) The Twenty-Fifth District is composed of the counties of St. Francis and Cross.

(2) The Twenty-Fifth District has six (6) departments as follows:

(A) One (1) located in Forrest City;

(B) One (1) located in Madison;

(C) One (1) located in Palestine;

(D) One (1) located in Wynne;

(E) One (1) located in Cherry Valley; and

(F) One (1) located in Parkin.

(3) The Twenty-Fifth District is served by one (1) state district court judge.

(4) The Twenty-Fifth District judge is elected districtwide.

(5) The Twenty-Fifth District court has district-wide jurisdiction.

(l)(1) The Thirtieth District shall be composed of Lonoke County.

(2) The Thirtieth District shall have six (6) departments as

follows:

- (A) One (1) located in Cabot;
- (B) One (1) located in Ward;
- (C) One (1) located in Austin;
- (D) One (1) located in Lonoke;
- (E) One (1) located in England; and
- (F) One (1) located in Carlisle.

(3) The Thirtieth District shall be served by one (1) state district court judge.

(4) The Thirtieth District judge shall be elected districtwide.

(5) The Thirtieth District court shall have district-wide jurisdiction.

(m)(1) The Thirty-First District is composed of the counties of Pulaski and Perry.

(2) The Thirty-First District has twelve (12) departments as follows:

(A) One (1) located in Jacksonville, to be known as Jacksonville District Court;

(B) Four (4) located in Little Rock, to be known as:

(i) Little Rock District Court – First Division;

(ii) Little Rock District Court – Second Division;

(iii) Little Rock District Court – Third Division;

and

(iv) Pulaski County District Court;

(C) One (1) located in Maumelle, to be known as Maumelle District Court;

(D) Two (2) located in North Little Rock, to be known as:

(i) North Little Rock District Court – First

Division; and

(ii) North Little Rock District Court – Second

Division;

(E) One (1) located in Sherwood, to be known as Sherwood District Court;

(F) One (1) located in Wrightsville, to be known as Wrightsville District Court;

(G) One (1) located in Cammack Village, to be known as Cammack Village District Court; and

(H) One (1) located in Perryville, to be known as Perryville District Court.

(3) The Thirty-First District shall be served by eight (8) state district judges. All the following judges shall be elected districtwide and shall have district-wide jurisdiction:

(A) The Jacksonville District Court and the Maumelle District Court shall be served by one (1) judge;

(B) The Little Rock District Court – First Division shall be served by one (1) judge;

(C) The Little Rock District Court – Second Division shall be served by one (1) judge;

(D) The Little Rock District Court – Third Division, the Wrightsville District Court, and the Cammack Village District Court shall be served by one (1) judge;

(E) The North Little Rock District Court – First Division shall be served by one (1) judge;

(F) The North Little Rock District Court – Second Division shall be served by one (1) judge;

(G) The Pulaski County District Court shall be served by one (1) judge;

(H) The Sherwood District Court shall be served by one (1) judge; and

(I) The Perryville District Court shall be served by one (1) of the district court judges listed under subdivision (m)(3)(A) through (H).

(n)(1) The Thirty-Ninth Judicial District shall be composed of the counties of Ouachita and Columbia.

(2) The Thirty-Ninth Judicial District shall have seven (7) departments as follows:

(A) One (1) located in Magnolia;

(B) One (1) located in Waldo;

(C) One (1) located in Camden;

(D) One (1) located in East Camden;

(E) One (1) located in Bearden;

(F) One (1) located in Chidester; and

(G) One (1) located in Stephens.

(3) The Thirty-Ninth Judicial District shall be served by one (1) state district court judge.

(4) The Thirty-Ninth Judicial District judge shall be elected districtwide.

(5) The Thirty-Ninth Judicial District court shall have district-wide jurisdiction.

(o)(1) The Forty-First Judicial District shall be composed of Garland County.

(2) The Forty-First District shall have three (3) departments as follows:

(A) Two (2) located in Hot Springs; and

(B) One (1) located in Mountain Pine.

(3) The Forty-First Judicial District shall be served by two (2) state district court judges.

(4) The Forty-First Judicial District judges shall be elected districtwide.

(5) The Forty-First Judicial District courts shall have district-wide jurisdiction.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Title 16, Chapter 17, Subchapter 11, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

16-17-1115. Reorganization of local district courts to state district courts as of January 1, 2029.

(a)(1) Beginning January 1, 2029, the following cities and counties that are currently served by local district courts pursuant to § 16-17-901 et seq. shall be reorganized as state district courts and served by state district court judges as assigned.

(2) The new state district court judgeships created by this section shall become effective January 1, 2029, and shall be placed on the ballot to be elected in the 2028 nonpartisan judicial election from the newly constructed state district court district.

(3) The cities and counties that were previously served by local district courts and will be served by state district courts shall comply with the cost-sharing requirements established in § 16-17-1106, effective January

1, 2029.

(b)(1) The Thirty-Sixth Judicial District shall be composed of the counties of Little River, Sevier, and Howard.

(2) The Thirty-Sixth Judicial District shall have five (5) departments as follows:

(A) One (1) located in Ashdown;

(B) One (1) located in Foreman;

(C) One (1) located in Winthrop;

(D) One (1) located in De Queen; and

(E) One (1) located in Nashville.

(3) The Thirty-Sixth Judicial District shall be served by one (1) state district court judge.

(4) The Thirty-Sixth Judicial District judge shall be elected districtwide.

(5) The Thirty-Sixth Judicial District courts shall have districtwide jurisdiction.

(c)(1) The Fortieth District shall be composed of the counties of Clark and Pike.

(2) The Fortieth District shall have six (6) departments as follows:

(A) One (1) located in Arkadelphia;

(B) One (1) located in Amity;

(C) One (1) located in Caddo Valley;

(D) One (1) located in Gurdon;

(E) One (1) located in Murfreesboro; and

(F) One (1) located in Glenwood.

(3) The Fortieth District shall be served by one (1) state district court judge.

(4) The Fortieth District judge shall be elected districtwide.

(5) The Fortieth District court shall have districtwide jurisdiction.

/s/Vines

APPROVED: 04/06/2015