

State of Arkansas  
92nd General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2019

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 552

By: Senator Teague

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REORGANIZATION OF LOCAL  
DISTRICT COURTS INTO STATE DISTRICT COURTS; AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

CONCERNING THE REORGANIZATION OF LOCAL  
DISTRICT COURTS INTO STATE DISTRICT  
COURTS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 16-17-1114 is amended to read as follows:

16-17-1114. Reorganization of local district courts to state district courts as of January 1, ~~2029~~ 2025.

(a)(1) Beginning January 1, ~~2029~~ 2025, the following cities and counties that are currently served by local district courts ~~pursuant to~~ under § 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~~ 2025, and shall be placed on the ballot to be elected in the ~~2028~~ 2024 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~~ 2025.

(b)(1) The Thirty-Sixth Judicial District shall be composed of the



counties of Little River, Sevier, Pike, and Howard.

(2) The Thirty-Sixth Judicial District shall have ~~five (5)~~ seven (7) 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
- (F) One (1) located in Murfreesboro; and
- (G) One (1) located in Glenwood.

(3) The Thirty-Sixth Judicial District shall be served by ~~one (1)~~ two (2) state district court ~~judge~~ judges.

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

(5) The Thirty-Sixth Judicial District court 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 Curdon;~~
- ~~(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.~~

**APPROVED: 4/9/19**