

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1407

By: Representative Dalby

By: Senator A. Clark

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE STATE
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE FUND; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE STATE
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE FUND.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings and intent.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 80, vested the judicial power of the State of Arkansas in the judicial department;

(2) Over the past twenty-five (25) years, the state has transitioned from hundreds of part-time local municipal court, city court, and district court judges to seventy (70) full-time state district court judges resulting from a consolidation of these courts into a unified state system of district courts;

(3) The Supreme Court in In re Amendment 80, 2025 Ark. 5, directed the Administrative Office of the Courts to:

(A) Assist the district judges in forming the Arkansas District Judges Judicial Council similar to that of the circuit court; and

(B) Support the new judicial council for district judges as it has supported the Arkansas Judicial Council for decades.

(4) Distributions from the State Administration of Justice Fund are currently made to the Arkansas District Judges Council, Inc., for the



Executive Director of the Arkansas District Judges Council, Inc.; and

(5) It is no longer necessary for the state to support the Arkansas District Judges Council, Inc., in this manner.

(b) The General Assembly intends this act to ensure the efficient use of the State Administration of Justice Fund.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 16-10-310(b), concerning the distribution of revenue credited to the State Administration of Justice Fund, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The revenue described in subsection (a) of this section shall be distributed to the following state programs and state agencies in monthly installments of at least one-twelfth (1/12) of the annual allocation provided for each state program or state agency from the State Administration of Justice Fund subject to the limitations stated in this section:

(1) The Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas for the purpose of and as regulated by §§ 6-64-604 – 6-64-606;

(2) The Public Health Fund and the Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Fund for use in the drug abuse prevention and treatment program of the Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services of the Department of Human Services;

(3) The Division of Arkansas State Police for the State Police Retirement Fund;

(4) The Crime Victims Reparations Revolving Fund for the purpose of and as regulated by the Arkansas Crime Victims Reparations Act, § 16-90-701 et seq.;

(5) The Prosecutor Coordinator's office for deposit into the Law Enforcement and Prosecutor Drug Enforcement Training Fund;

(6) The Crime Information System Fund;

(7) The Justice Building Construction Fund;

(8) The District Court Judge and District Court Clerk Education Fund;

(9) The Judges Retirement Fund;

(10) The State Central Services Fund for the benefit of the Arkansas Public Defender Commission;

(11) The Court Reporter's Fund;

(12) The Justice Building Fund;

- (13) The Arkansas Counties Alcohol and Drug Abuse and Crime Prevention Program Fund;
- (14) The Administrative Office of the Courts to fund the Trial Court Administrator Fund;
- (15) The Division of Arkansas State Police Fund;
- (16) The State Central Services Fund for the benefit of the Division of Dependency-Neglect Representation of the Administrative Office of the Courts;
- (17) The Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account for the benefit of the State Crime Laboratory;
- ~~(18) The Arkansas District Judges Council, Inc., for the Executive Director of the Arkansas District Judges Council, Inc.;~~
- ~~(19)~~(18) The Public Legal Aid Fund;
- ~~(20)~~(19) The Administrative Office of the Courts for county reimbursements for jurors; and
- ~~(21)~~(20) The Administrative Office of the Courts to reimburse the State Central Services Fund for the Drug Court Coordinator.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 16-10-310(c)(1)(A), concerning the priority of allocations if the State Administration of Justice Fund balance is inadequate to fully fund all authorized monthly allocations, is amended to read as follows:

(1)(A) The available revenue and remaining State Administration of Justice Fund balance shall be distributed first to fully fund the monthly allocation for:

- (i) The Court Reporter's Fund;
- ~~(ii) The Arkansas District Judges Council, Inc., for the Executive Director of the Arkansas District Judges Council, Inc.;~~ and
- ~~(iii)~~(ii) The Administrative Office of the Courts to fund the Trial Court Administrator Fund.

APPROVED: 2/25/25