

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1644

By: Representative Dalby

By: Senator A. Clark

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE COMPENSATION OF A RETIRED JUDGE APPOINTED AS A SPECIAL JUDGE; TO CLARIFY THAT A RETIRED JUDGE MAY SERVE AS A SPECIAL JUDGE IMMEDIATELY UPON RETIREMENT; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING THE COMPENSATION OF A RETIRED JUDGE APPOINTED AS A SPECIAL JUDGE; TO CLARIFY THAT A RETIRED JUDGE MAY SERVE AS A SPECIAL JUDGE IMMEDIATELY UPON RETIREMENT; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative intent.

The General Assembly intends:

(1) To clarify the ability of a retired judge to serve as a special judge immediately upon retirement, as provided by Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 80, § 13, and other law; and

(2) For this act to apply retroactively to January 1, 2025.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 16-10-902, concerning the compensation of a retired judge appointed as a special judge, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(c) A retired judge may serve as a special judge immediately upon leaving office.



SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the number of requests for special judges is currently higher than the number of retired judges available to be appointed; that there is a need to clarify that a retired judge may be appointed as a special judge immediately upon leaving office; and that this act is immediately necessary to ensure the timely administration of justice. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

- (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;
- (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or
- (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

APPROVED: 3/20/25