

State of Arkansas  
95th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: S3/13/25

## A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1597

By: Representative Dalby

By: Senator A. Clark

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION  
OF THE OATH OF OFFICE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE  
ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE.

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

*SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 14-42-106(b), concerning oaths required for elected or appointed municipal officers, is amended to read as follows:*

*(b)(1) Except as provided in subdivision (b)(2) of this section, the officers shall take their oaths before:*

- (A) The Secretary of State or his or her official designee;*
- (B) A justice or judge ~~of the:~~*
  - (i) Supreme Court;*
  - (ii) Court of Appeals;*
  - (iii) Circuit court, including any former circuit or chancery judge who served for at least four (4) years; or*
  - (iv) District court, including any former municipal or district judge who served for at least four (4) years;*
- (C) A judge of the county court;*
- (D) A federal justice or judge of the:*
  - (i) United States Supreme Court;*
  - (ii) United States Court of Appeals; or*
  - (iii) United States District Court;*



- (E) A clerk of the:
- (i) County court;
  - (ii) Circuit court; or
  - (iii) City of the first class;

- ~~(E)~~(F) A recorder of:
- (i) A city of the second class; or
  - (ii) An incorporated town; or

- ~~(F)~~(G) A justice of the peace.

(2) The council members also may take their oaths before the mayor of the municipality.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 21-2-105(a), concerning who may administer an oath of office, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) The Governor shall take the oath of office before:

- (A) A justice or judge of the:
- (i) Supreme Court;
  - (ii) Court of Appeals;
  - (iii) Circuit court; or
  - (iv) District court;
- (B) A federal justice or judge of the:
- (i) United States Supreme Court;
  - (ii) United States Court of Appeals; or
  - (iii) United States District Court;
- (C) The county clerk; or
- ~~(G)~~(D) The clerk of the circuit court.

(2) The justices of the Supreme Court, judges of the Court of Appeals, judges of the circuit courts, judges of the district court, Secretary of State, Treasurer of State, and Auditor of State shall take their oaths before:

- (A) The Governor;
- (B) A justice or judge of the:
- (i) Supreme Court;
  - (ii) Court of Appeals;
  - (iii) Circuit court, including any former circuit or chancery judge who served for at least four (4) years; or
  - (iv) District court, including any former municipal

or district judge who served for at least four (4) years;

- (C) A federal justice or judge of the:
  - (i) United States Supreme Court;
  - (ii) United States Court of Appeals; or
  - (iii) United States District Court;
- (D) The clerk of the county court; or
- ~~(D)~~(E) The clerk of the circuit court.

(3) All other officers, both civil and military, shall take their oaths before:

- (A) The Secretary of State or his or her official designee;
- (B) A justice or judge of the:
  - (i) Supreme Court;
  - (ii) Court of Appeals;
  - (iii) Circuit court, including any former circuit or chancery judge who served for at least four (4) years;
  - (iv) District court, including any former municipal or district judge who served for at least four (4) years; or
  - (v) County court;
- (C) A federal justice or judge of the:
  - (i) United States Supreme Court;
  - (ii) United States Court of Appeals; or
  - (iii) United States District Court;
- (D) The clerk of the county court;
- ~~(D)~~(E) The clerk of the circuit court;
- ~~(E)~~(F) A justice of the peace;
- ~~(F)~~(G) A clerk of a city of the first class; or
- ~~(G)~~(H) A recorder of a city of the second class or incorporated town.

/s/Dalby

APPROVED: 4/3/25