

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1263

By: Representatives Steel, Wright

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CEASE THE TRANSFER OF SOME DISTRICT COURTS TO THE STATE DISTRICT COURT SYSTEM UNTIL FURTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTION; TO PRESERVE THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE FUND; TO PROTECT STATE TRIAL COURT ASSISTANTS BY REPEALING JUDICIAL POSITIONS NOT YET FILLED; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CEASE THE TRANSFER OF SOME DISTRICT COURTS TO THE STATE DISTRICT COURT SYSTEM; TO PRESERVE THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE FUND; TO PROTECT STATE TRIAL COURT ASSISTANTS BY REPEALING JUDICIAL POSITIONS NOT YET FILLED.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 16-17-1112 is repealed.

~~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) 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 Gabot;~~
- ~~(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.~~