

State of Arkansas
90th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2015

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1400

By: Representatives B. Overbey, Gossage

By: Senator G. Stubblefield

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REORGANIZATION OF THE LOCAL
DISTRICT COURTS TO STATE DISTRICT COURTS IN THE
SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING THE REORGANIZATION OF THE
LOCAL DISTRICT COURTS TO STATE DISTRICT
COURTS IN THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 16-17-1112(b)(3), concerning reorganization of local district courts to state district courts in the Seventh District as of January 1, 2017, is repealed.

~~(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.~~

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 16, Chapter 17, Subchapter 11, is amended to add a new section to read as follows:

16-17-1113. Reorganization of local district courts to a state district court of the Seventh Judicial District as of January 1, 2025.

(a)(1) Beginning January 1, 2025, the cities and counties of the Seventh Judicial District that are currently served by local district courts under § 16-17-901 et seq. shall be reorganized into a state district court district and served by a state district court judge as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

(2) The new state district court judgeship created in the Seventh Judicial District by this section shall become effective January 1, 2025, and shall be placed on the ballot to be elected in the 2024 nonpartisan judicial election from the newly constructed state district court district.

(3) The cities and counties of the Seventh Judicial District which were previously served by local district courts and will be served by a state district court shall comply with the cost-sharing requirements established in § 16-17-1106, effective January 1, 2025.

(b)(1) The Seventh Judicial District shall be composed of the counties of Franklin and Johnson.

(2) The Seventh District shall have six (6) departments as follows:

- (A) One (1) located in Charleston;
- (B) One (1) located in Ozark;
- (C) One (1) located in Altus;
- (D) One (1) located in Clarksville;
- (E) One (1) located in Coal Hill; and
- (F) One (1) located in Lamar.

(3) The Seventh Judicial District shall be served by one (1) state district court judge.

(4) The Seventh Judicial District judge shall be elected districtwide.

(5) The Seventh Judicial District court shall have district-wide jurisdiction.