

State of Arkansas
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

A Bill

SENATE BILL 568

By: Senator Caldwell
By: Representative Hollowell

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE TWENTY-FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT;
CONCERNING DISTRICT COURT JUDGES; TO DECLARE AN
EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING THE TWENTY-FIFTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT; CONCERNING DISTRICT COURT
JUDGES; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 16-17-1110(19), concerning the twenty-fifth judicial district, is amended to read as follows:

- (19)(A) The Twenty-Fifth District is composed of St. Francis County.
- (B) The Twenty-Fifth District has three (3) departments as follows:
- (i) One (1) located in Forrest City;
 - (ii) One (1) located in Madison; and
 - (iii) One (1) located in Palestine.
- (C) The Twenty-Fifth District is served by ~~one (1)~~ two (2) state district court ~~judge~~ judges.
- (D) The Twenty-Fifth District ~~judge is~~ judges are elected districtwide.
- (E) The Twenty-Fifth District ~~court has~~ courts have districtwide jurisdiction;



SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 16-17-1113(k), concerning the Twenty-Fifth Judicial District, is amended to read as follows:

(k)(1) The Twenty-Fifth District is composed of the counties of St. Francis and Cross.

(2) The Twenty-Fifth District has six (6) departments as follows:

- (A) One (1) located in Forrest City;
- (B) One (1) located in Madison;
- (C) One (1) located in Palestine;
- (D) One (1) located in Wynne;
- (E) One (1) located in Cherry Valley; and
- (F) One (1) located in Parkin.

(3) The Twenty-Fifth District is served by ~~one (1)~~ two (2) state district court ~~judge~~ judges.

(4) The Twenty-Fifth District ~~judge is~~ judges are elected districtwide.

(5) The Twenty-Fifth District ~~court has~~ courts have districtwide jurisdiction.

SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Temporary legislation.

(a) For the district court judgeship created under this act, the Governor shall appoint a qualified person who is a resident of the judicial district that is the subject of this act to temporarily fill the newly created district court judgeship, and the appointed person shall serve until January 1, 2021, or until a successor has been elected and qualified.

(b)(1) The qualified electors of the judicial district shall elect the additional district court judge created by this act at the 2020 preferential primary election to take office on January 1, 2021.

(2) The additional district court judge shall be elected from the judicial district, shall satisfy the same qualifications for holding office, and shall receive the same salary, expenses, and other allowances as provided by law.

(3) The district court judge shall serve for an elected term of four (4) years.

(c) The counties receiving the new district court judgeship shall

provide courtroom and office facilities and supplies as provided by law.

SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the twenty-fifth judicial district has an immediate need for an additional district court judge due to the number of cases pending in the judicial district. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on July 1, 2019.