

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

A Bill

SENATE BILL 570

By: Senator Hester

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL CIRCUIT JUDGESHIPS FOR CERTAIN JUDICIAL DISTRICTS; TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL CIRCUIT JUDGESHIPS FOR CERTAIN JUDICIAL DISTRICTS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 16-13-1003, concerning the Second Judicial District, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(f) There is created in the Second Judicial District an additional circuit judgeship that shall have jurisdiction in law, equity, probate, and juvenile matters.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 16-13-1203, concerning the Fourth Judicial District, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(c) There is created in the Fourth Judicial District an additional circuit judgeship that shall have jurisdiction in law, equity, probate, and juvenile matters.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 16-13-1403, concerning the circuit court of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:



(e)(1) There is created in the Sixth Judicial District an additional circuit judgeship that shall have jurisdiction in law, equity, probate, and juvenile matters.

(2) The judge of the additional circuit court judgeship created under this subsection shall be a resident of Perry County.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 16-13-2003, concerning the Twelfth Judicial District, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(e) There is created in the Twelfth Judicial District an additional circuit judgeship that shall have jurisdiction in law, equity, probate, and juvenile matters.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 16-13-2903 is amended to read as follows:
16-13-2903. ~~Election of~~ Circuit court judges.

(a) The qualified electors of the Twenty-first Judicial District shall elect two (2) ~~circuit-chancery~~ circuit judges.

(b) There is created in the Twenty-first Judicial District an additional circuit judgeship that shall have jurisdiction in law, equity, probate, and juvenile matters.

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 16-13-3002, concerning the Nineteenth Judicial District-West, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(i) There is created in the Nineteenth Judicial District-West an additional circuit judgeship that shall have jurisdiction in law, equity, probate, and juvenile matters.

SECTION 7. DO NOT CODIFY. Temporary legislation.

(a) For all circuit judgeships except for the Sixth Judicial District under Section 3 of this act, the Governor shall appoint qualified persons who are residents of the judicial districts that are the subject of this act to temporarily fill the newly created circuit court judgeships, and each of the appointed persons shall serve until January 1, 2021, or until a successor has been elected and qualified.

(b)(1) The qualified electors of the applicable judicial districts shall elect the additional circuit court judges whose judgeships are created

by this act at the 2020 preferential primary election, to take office on January 1, 2021.

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

(3) The circuit court judges shall serve for elected terms of six (6) years.

(c) The counties receiving a new circuit court judgeship shall provide courtroom and office facilities and supplies, which shall be paid for as provided by law.

SECTION 8. DO NOT CODIFY. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE.

(a) For the circuit judgeship created for the Sixth Judicial District under Section 3 of this act, the Governor shall appoint a qualified person who is a resident of Perry County to temporarily fill the newly created circuit 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 Sixth Judicial District shall elect the additional circuit court judge created by this act at the 2020 preferential primary election, to take office on January 1, 2021.

(2) The additional circuit court judge shall be a resident of Perry County, shall satisfy the same qualifications for holding office, and shall receive the same salary, expenses, and other allowances as provided by existing law for judges of the circuit courts.

(3) The circuit court judge shall serve for an elected term of six (6) years.

(c) The counties of the Sixth Judicial District shall provide courtroom and office facilities and supplies, a court reporter, and a trial court administrative assistant for the circuit court judge, which shall be paid for as provided by law.

SECTION 9. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the judicial districts under this act have an immediate need for additional circuit court judges 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.