

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1225

By: Representative Tollett

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REORGANIZATION OF THE STATE DISTRICT COURT SYSTEM; CONCERNING THE CURRENT FIFTEENTH AND SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING THE REORGANIZATION OF THE STATE DISTRICT COURT SYSTEM; AND CONCERNING THE CURRENT FIFTEENTH AND SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICTS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 16-17-1113(g), concerning the Fifteenth Judicial District, is repealed as of December 31, 2024.

~~(g)(1) The Fifteenth Judicial District shall be composed of the counties of Jackson and Woodruff.~~

~~(2) The Fifteenth District shall have eight (8) departments as follows:~~

- ~~(A) One (1) located in Newport;~~
- ~~(B) One (1) located in Diaz;~~
- ~~(C) One (1) located in Swifton;~~
- ~~(D) One (1) located in Tuckerman;~~
- ~~(E) One (1) located in Augusta;~~
- ~~(F) One (1) located in Cotton Plant;~~
- ~~(G) One (1) located in McGrory; and~~
- ~~(H) One (1) located in Patterson.~~



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

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

~~(5) The Fifteenth Judicial District court shall have districtwide jurisdiction.~~

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 16-17-1115 is amended to read as follows:

16-17-1115. Reorganization of local district courts to state district courts as of January 1, 2025.

(a)(1) Beginning January 1, 2025, the following cities and counties, currently being served by a local district court under § 16-17-901 et seq. shall be reorganized as a state district court district and served by state district court judges as assigned.

(2) The new state district court judgeship created 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 that 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, 2025.

(b)(1) The Thirteenth Judicial District is composed of the counties of Stone and Cleburne.

(2) The Thirteenth Judicial District has five (5) departments as follows:

- (A) One (1) located in Heber Springs;
- (B) One (1) located in Greers Ferry;
- (C) One (1) located in Concord;
- (D) One (1) located in Quitman; and
- (E) One (1) located in Mountain View.

(3) The Thirteenth Judicial District is served by one (1) state district court judge.

(4) The Thirteenth Judicial District judge is elected districtwide.

(5) The Thirteenth Judicial District court has districtwide

jurisdiction.

(c)(1) The Fifteenth Judicial District shall be composed of Jackson County.

(2) The Fifteenth Judicial District shall have four (4) departments as follows:

- (A) One (1) located in Newport;
- (B) One (1) located in Diaz;
- (C) One (1) located in Swifton; and
- (D) One (1) located in Tuckerman.

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

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

(5) The Fifteenth Judicial District court shall have districtwide jurisdiction.

~~(e)(1)(d)(1)~~ The Sixteenth Judicial District shall be composed of the counties of Monroe and Arkansas County.

(2) The Sixteenth Judicial District shall have ~~seven (7)~~ four (4) departments as follows:

- (A) One (1) located in Stuttgart;
- (B) One (1) located in De Witt;
- (C) One (1) located in Gillett; and
- (D) One (1) located in St. Charles;
- ~~(E) One (1) located in Brinkley;~~
- ~~(F) One (1) located in Clarendon; and~~
- ~~(G) One (1) located in Holly Grove.~~

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

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

(5) The Sixteenth Judicial District court shall have districtwide jurisdiction.

(e)(1) The Forty-Second Judicial District is composed of the counties of Monroe and Woodruff.

(2) The Forty-Second Judicial District shall have seven (7) departments as follows:

- (A) One (1) located in Brinkley;
- (B) One (1) located in Clarendon;
- (C) One (1) located in Holly Grove;
- (D) One (1) located in Augusta;
- (E) One (1) located in Cotton Plant;
- (F) One (1) located in McCrory; and
- (G) One (1) located in Patterson.

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

(4) The Forty-Second Judicial District judge shall be elected districtwide.

(5) The Forty-Second Judicial District court shall have districtwide jurisdiction.