

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

State of Arkansas  
95th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H3/31/25

## A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1815

By: Representatives Perry, F. Allen, Beaty Jr., Bentley, S. Berry, K. Brown, Ennett, Hudson, McCollum, McGrew, S. Meeks, Milligan, Painter, Ray, J. Richardson, R. Scott Richardson, Richmond, Unger, D. Whitaker

By: Senators D. Wallace, J. Dotson, K. Hammer

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE STATE'S JURISDICTION OVER FEDERAL LANDS; TO RETAIN JUVENILE JUSTICE JURISDICTION BY THE STATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO AMEND THE STATE'S JURISDICTION OVER FEDERAL LANDS; AND TO RETAIN JUVENILE JUSTICE JURISDICTION BY THE STATE.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings and intent.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) The United States Senate Committee on Armed Services, Sen. Rep. No. 115-262, at 192 (2018), expressed concern about the ability of the United States Department of Defense to "protect or provide justice to the children of service members when [the children] are sexually assaulted by other children" in the United States Department of Defense schools or on military bases;

(2) The United States Deputy Secretary of Defense issued a memorandum directing the secretaries of the military departments to seek concurrent jurisdiction with states to remove barriers preventing access to juvenile justice in areas of exclusive federal jurisdiction, including military bases within the United States;

(3) The United States Department of Defense seeks to allow state



legislatures to extend concurrent jurisdiction over juvenile justice matters on military bases; and

(4) Amendment of the Arkansas Code's provisions related to the state's jurisdiction over juvenile justice matters is necessary to allow for investigation and adjudication over cases referred to this state by the United States Government.

(b) The General Assembly intends this act to:

(1) Extend the state's jurisdiction over juvenile justice to places of exclusive federal jurisdiction;

(2) Require the Legislative Council to approve extensions of concurrent jurisdiction when the General Assembly is not in session; and

(3) Require reciprocal agreements between the United States Department of Defense and the state, a county, or a municipal government to be filed with the county clerk where the reciprocal agreement was made and to be compiled by the Attorney General.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 9-27-306, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(g) When concurrent jurisdiction has been established under § 22-7-102, the circuit court or the juvenile division of circuit court has exclusive jurisdiction over any case involving a juvenile who is alleged to be delinquent as the result of an act committed within the boundaries of a military installation that is a crime under state law.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 22-7-101 is amended to read as follows:

22-7-101. Purchase of real property by United States – Limited cession of jurisdiction – Right to tax – Local agreements authorized.

(a) The State of Arkansas consents to the purchase by the United States of any site or ground for the erection of any armory, arsenal, fort, fortification, navy yard, customhouse, lighthouse, lock, dam, fish hatchery, or other public buildings of any kind.

(b) The jurisdiction of this state within and over all grounds purchased by the United States within the limits of this state is ceded to the United States, except that: ~~this cession of jurisdiction shall not prevent execution of any process of this state, civil or criminal, upon any person who may be on these grounds~~

(1) There shall be juvenile justice jurisdiction for the investigation and adjudication of cases referred to this state by the United States in exercising concurrent jurisdiction with the state; and

(2) In the event that the United States Government acquires grounds expanding an existing installation, the legislative jurisdiction of the newly acquired grounds shall have the same legislative jurisdiction as the existing federal installation.

(c) This state releases and relinquishes its right to tax any site, grounds, or real estate, and all improvements which may be there or erected there during the time the United States remains the owner thereof.

(d)(1) Upon the establishment of exclusive or concurrent jurisdiction, any state, county, or municipal authority may enter into a reciprocal agreement, including without limitation a memorandum of understanding, with any agency of the United States for the coordination and designation of services and juridical responsibilities related to the respective federal installation.

(2) A state, county, or municipal authority shall file an agreement entered under subdivision (d)(1) of this section with the county clerk in the county that the federal installation is located and include a copy provided to and compiled by the Attorney General for each federal installation.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 22-7-102(b), concerning transfer of jurisdiction and transmission of notice among the branches of state government, is amended to read as follows:

(b)~~(1)~~ The Governor shall transmit the notice, together with his or her comments and recommendations, if any, and the comments and recommendations of the Attorney General, if any, to the ~~next session of the~~ General Assembly if in session, or the Legislative Council when the General Assembly is not in session, which shall be constitutionally competent to consider the notice, comments, and recommendations.

~~(2) Unless prior to the expiration of the legislative session to which the notice is transmitted the General Assembly has adopted an act approving the transfer of legislative jurisdiction as proposed in the notice, the transfer shall not be effective.~~

*/s/Perry*