

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1978

By: Representative Gazaway

By: Senator B. Johnson

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ADD AN ADDITIONAL JUDGESHIP TO THE SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT OF THE STATE DISTRICT COURT SYSTEM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ADD AN ADDITIONAL JUDGESHIP TO THE SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT OF THE STATE DISTRICT COURT SYSTEM.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 16-17-1113(i), concerning the Seventeenth District composed of the counties of Clay and Greene, is amended to read as follows:

(i)(1) The Seventeenth District is composed of the counties of Clay and Greene.

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

- (A) One (1) located in Paragould;
- (B) One (1) located in Marmaduke;
- (C) One (1) located in Corning;
- (D) One (1) located in Piggott; and
- (E) One (1) located in Rector.

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

(4) The Seventeenth District ~~judge is~~ judges are elected districtwide.



(5) The Seventeenth District court has districtwide jurisdiction.

(6)(A) One (1) of the state district court judges under this section shall have salary and benefits paid as provided under § 16-17-1106.

(B) In lieu of § 16-17-1106, one (1) of the state district court judges under this section shall have salary and benefits paid as follows:

(i) The state shall pay the salary and benefits of the state district court judge;

(ii) The funds necessary to cover the salary and benefits of the state district court judge, including without limitation retirement benefits, shall be divided between the City of Paragould, Greene County, and Clay County, with the City of Paragould paying one-half (1/2) of seventy-five percent (75%) of the salary and benefits, Greene County paying one-half (1/2) of seventy-five percent (75%) of the salary and benefits, and Clay County paying twenty-five percent (25%) of the salary and benefits; and

(iii) On or before January 15 of each year, the sum under subdivision (i)(6)(B)(ii) of this section to fund the salary and benefits of the state district court judge shall be remitted to the Administration of Justice Funds Section for deposit into the Constitutional Officers Fund.

SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW STATE DISTRICT COURT JUDGESHIP. The new state district court judgeship created by this act shall become effective January 1, 2027, and shall be placed on the ballot to be elected at the 2026 nonpartisan judicial election.