

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015
4

As Engrossed: H3/4/15 H3/10/15

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1532

5 By: Representatives Vines, Richey, B. Overbey, Ratliff, Neal, *Bennett*
6 By: Senators B. Sample, E. Cheatham, S. Flowers, Burnett, J. Hutchinson, J. Woods
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE DISTRICT COURT SYSTEM;
10 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

14 CONCERNING THE STATE DISTRICT COURT
15 SYSTEM.

16
17
18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

19
20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 16-17-1110(9), concerning the effective
21 date the Eighteenth Judicial District for state district courts shall be
22 composed of Mississippi County, is amended to read as follows:

23 (9)(A) ~~The Eighteenth District is composed of Mississippi~~
24 ~~County, Chickasawba District.~~

25 ~~(B)~~ Beginning January 1, ~~2021~~ 2017, the Eighteenth
26 District shall be composed of Mississippi County.

27 ~~(C)~~(B) The Eighteenth District has ~~five (5)~~ seven (7)
28 departments as follows:

- 29 (i) One (1) located in Blytheville;
- 30 (ii) One (1) located in Manila;
- 31 (iii) One (1) located in Leachville;
- 32 (iv) One (1) located in Gosnell; ~~and~~
- 33 (v) One (1) located in Dell-~~r~~;
- 34 (vi) One (1) located in Osceola; and
- 35 (vii) One (1) located in Joiner.

36 ~~(D) Beginning January 1, 2021, the Eighteenth District~~



1 ~~shall have two (2) additional departments as follows:~~

2 ~~(i) One (1) located in Osceola; and~~

3 ~~(ii) One (1) located in Joiner.~~

4 ~~(E)(C) The Eighteenth District is served by one (1) state~~
5 ~~district court judge until January 1, 2021, when the district shall be served~~
6 ~~by two (2) state district court judges.~~

7 ~~(F)(D) The Eighteenth District judges are elected~~
8 ~~districtwide.~~

9 ~~(G)(E) The Eighteenth District court has district-wide~~
10 ~~jurisdiction;~~

11

12 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 16-17-1112 is amended to read as follows:

13 16-17-1112. Reorganization of local district courts to state district
14 courts as of January 1, 2017.

15 (a)(1) Beginning January 1, 2017, the following cities and counties
16 that are currently served by local district courts pursuant to § 16-17-901 et
17 seq. shall be reorganized as state district courts and served by a state
18 district court judge.

19 (2) The new state district court judgeships created by this
20 section shall become effective January 1, 2017, and shall be placed on the
21 ballot to be elected in the 2016 nonpartisan judicial election from the newly
22 constructed judicial district.

23 (3) The cities and counties which were previously served by
24 local district courts and will be served by state district courts shall
25 comply with the cost-sharing requirements established in § 16-17-1106,
26 effective January 1, 2017.

27 (b)(1)(A) The Second District shall be composed of Washington County
28 and the city limits of Springdale as of January 1, 2011, including that
29 portion of the City of Springdale which extends into Benton County.

30 (B) The Second District shall have ten (10) departments as
31 follows:

32 (i) One (1) located in Springdale;

33 (ii) One (1) located in Elm Springs;

34 (iii) One (1) located in Johnson;

35 (iv) One (1) located in Fayetteville;

36 (v) One (1) located in Elkins;

- 1 (vi) One (1) located in West Fork;
- 2 (vii) One (1) located in Greenland;
- 3 (viii) One (1) located in Prairie Grove;
- 4 (ix) One (1) located in Lincoln; and
- 5 (x) One (1) located in Farmington.

6 (C) The Second District shall be served by four (4) state
7 district court judges;

- 8 (i) One (1) judgeship first to be elected in 2016
9 and to become effective January 1, 2017, shall be designated as Division 1;
- 10 (ii) One (1) judgeship first to be elected in 2016
11 and to become effective January 1, 2017, shall be designated as Division 2;
- 12 (iii) One (1) judgeship first to be elected in 2016
13 and to become effective January 1, 2017, shall be designated as Division 3;
14 and
- 15 (iv) One (1) judgeship first to be elected in 2016
16 and to become effective January 1, 2017, shall be designated as Division 4.

17 (D) The presiding judge of the departments under
18 subdivision (b)(3)(B) of this section shall be determined by the mutual
19 agreement of the state district court judges.

20 (E) The Second District judges shall be elected
21 districtwide.

22 (F) The Second District court shall have district-wide
23 jurisdiction.

24 (2)(A) The Third District shall be composed of the counties of
25 Carroll and Madison.

26 (B) The Third District shall have three (3) departments as
27 follows:

- 28 (i) One (1) located in Berryville;
- 29 (ii) One (1) located in Eureka Springs; and
- 30 (iii) One (1) located in Huntsville.

31 (C) The Third District shall be served by one (1) state
32 district court judge.

33 (D) The Third District judge shall be elected
34 districtwide.

35 (E) The Third District court shall have district-wide
36 jurisdiction.

1 ~~(3)(A) The Seventh District shall be composed of the counties of~~
2 ~~Franklin and Johnson.~~

3 ~~(B) The Seventh District shall have six (6) departments as~~
4 ~~follows:~~

5 ~~(i) One (1) located in Charleston;~~

6 ~~(ii) One (1) located in Ozark;~~

7 ~~(iii) One (1) located in Altus;~~

8 ~~(iv) One (1) located in Clarksville;~~

9 ~~(v) One (1) located in Coal Hill; and~~

10 ~~(vi) One (1) located in Lamar.~~

11 ~~(C) The Seventh District shall be served by one (1) state~~
12 ~~district court judge.~~

13 ~~(D) The Seventh District judge shall be elected~~
14 ~~districtwide.~~

15 ~~(E) The Seventh District court shall have district-wide~~
16 ~~jurisdiction.~~

17 ~~(4)(A)~~(3)(A) The Twenty-Seventh District shall be composed of
18 the counties of Desha and Chicot.

19 (B) The Twenty-Seventh District shall have five (5)
20 departments as follows:

21 (i) One (1) located in Dermott;

22 (ii) One (1) located in Eudora;

23 (iii) One (1) located in Lake Village;

24 (iv) One (1) located in Dumas; and

25 (v) One (1) located in McGehee.

26 (C) The Twenty-Seventh District shall be served by one (1)
27 state district court judge.

28 (D) The Twenty-Seventh District judge shall be elected
29 districtwide.

30 (E) The Twenty-Seventh District court shall have district-
31 wide jurisdiction.

32 ~~(5)(A) The Thirtieth District shall be composed of Lonoke~~
33 ~~County.~~

34 ~~(B) The Thirtieth District shall have seven (7)~~
35 ~~departments as follows:~~

36 ~~(i) One (1) located in Cabot;~~

- 1 ~~(ii) One (1) located in Ward;~~
- 2 ~~(iii) One (1) located in Austin;~~
- 3 ~~(iv) One (1) located in Lonoke;~~
- 4 ~~(v) One (1) located in England;~~
- 5 ~~(vi) One (1) located in Carlisle; and~~
- 6 ~~(vii) One (1) located in Allport.~~
- 7 ~~(C) The Thirtieth District shall be served by one (1)~~
- 8 ~~state district court judge.~~
- 9 ~~(D) The Thirtieth District judge shall be elected~~
- 10 ~~districtwide.~~
- 11 ~~(E) The Thirtieth District court shall have district-wide~~
- 12 ~~jurisdiction.~~
- 13 ~~(6)(A) The Forty-First District shall be composed of Garland~~
- 14 ~~County.~~
- 15 ~~(B) The Forty-First District shall have three (3)~~
- 16 ~~departments as follows:~~
- 17 ~~(i) Two (2) located in Hot Springs; and~~
- 18 ~~(ii) One (1) located in Mountain Pine.~~
- 19 ~~(C) The Forty-First District shall be served by two (2)~~
- 20 ~~state district court judges.~~
- 21 ~~(D) The Forty-First District judges shall be elected~~
- 22 ~~districtwide.~~
- 23 ~~(E) The Forty-First District court shall have district-~~
- 24 ~~wide jurisdiction.~~
- 25 ~~(7)(A)~~(4)(A) The Thirty-Third District shall be composed of the
- 26 counties of Grant and Hot Spring.
- 27 (B) The Thirty-Third District shall have five (5)
- 28 departments as follows:
- 29 (i) One (1) located in Sheridan;
- 30 (ii) One (1) located in Malvern;
- 31 (iii) One (1) located in Donaldson;
- 32 (iv) One (1) located in Friendship; and
- 33 (v) One (1) located in Rockport.
- 34 (C) The Thirty-Third District shall be served by one (1)
- 35 state district court judge.
- 36 (D) The Thirty-Third District judge shall be elected

1 districtwide.

2 (E) The Thirty-Third District court shall have district-
3 wide jurisdiction.

4 (5)(A) The Twenty-Second District shall be composed of Lee and
5 Phillips counties.

6 (B) The Twenty-Second District shall have five (5)
7 departments as follows:

8 (i) One (1) located in Marianna;

9 (ii) One (1) located in Helena-West Helena;

10 (iii) One (1) located in Lake View;

11 (iv) One (1) located in Elaine; and

12 (v) One (1) located in Marvell.

13 (C) The Twenty-Second District shall be served by one (1)
14 state district court judge.

15 (D) The Twenty-Second District judge shall be elected
16 districtwide.

17 (E) The Twenty-Second District courts shall have district-
18 wide jurisdiction.

19 (6)(A) The Twenty-Sixth District shall be composed of Ashley
20 County.

21 (B) The Twenty-Sixth District shall have two (2)
22 departments as follows:

23 (i) One (1) located in Crossett; and

24 (ii) One (1) located in Hamburg.

25 (C) The Twenty-Sixth District shall be served by one (1)
26 state district court judge.

27 (D) The Twenty-Sixth District judge shall be elected
28 districtwide.

29 (E) The Twenty-Sixth District courts shall have district-
30 wide jurisdiction; and

31 (7)(A) The Twenty-Eighth District shall be composed of Bradley
32 and Drew counties.

33 (B) The Twenty-Eighth District shall have two (2)
34 departments as follows:

35 (i) One (1) located in Monticello; and

36 (ii) One (1) located in Warren.

1 (C) The Twenty-Eighth District shall be served by one (1)
2 state district court judge.

3 (D) The Twenty-Eighth District judge shall be elected
4 districtwide.

5 (E) The Twenty-Eighth District courts shall have district-
6 wide jurisdiction.

7
8 *SECTION 3.* Arkansas Code Title 16, Chapter 17, Subchapter 11, is
9 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

10 16-17-1113. Reorganization of local district courts to state district
11 courts as of January 1, 2021.

12 (a)(1) Beginning January 1, 2021, the following cities and counties
13 that are currently served by local district courts pursuant to § 16-17-901 et
14 seq. shall be reorganized as state district courts and served by state
15 district court judges as assigned.

16 (2) The new state district court judgeships created by this
17 section shall become effective January 1, 2021, and shall be placed on the
18 ballot to be elected in the 2020 nonpartisan judicial election from the newly
19 constructed state district court district.

20 (3) The cities and counties that were previously served by local
21 district courts and will be served by state district courts shall comply with
22 the cost-sharing requirements established in § 16-17-1106, effective January
23 1, 2021.

24 (b)(1) The Seventh Judicial District shall be composed of the counties
25 of Franklin and Johnson.

26 (2) The Seventh District shall have six (6) departments as
27 follows:

28 (A) One (1) located in Charleston;

29 (B) One (1) located in Ozark;

30 (C) One (1) located in Altus;

31 (D) One (1) located in Clarksville;

32 (E) One (1) located in Coal Hill; and

33 (F) One (1) located in Lamar.

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

36 (4) The Seventh Judicial District judge shall be elected

1 districtwide.

2 (5) The Seventh Judicial District court shall have district-wide
3 jurisdiction.

4 (c)(1) The Eleventh Judicial District shall be composed of the
5 counties of Randolph, Sharp, and Lawrence.

6 (2) The Eleventh District shall have seven (7) departments as
7 follows:

8 (A) One (1) located in Pocahontas;

9 (B) One (1) located in Ash Flat;

10 (C) One (1) located in Cherokee Village;

11 (D) One (1) located in Walnut Ridge;

12 (E) One (1) located in Hoxie;

13 (F) One (1) located in Black Rock; and

14 (G) One (1) located in Portia.

15 (3) The Eleventh Judicial District shall be served by two (2)
16 state district court judges.

17 (4) The Eleventh Judicial District judges shall be elected
18 districtwide.

19 (5) The Eleventh Judicial District courts shall have district-
20 wide jurisdiction.

21 (d)(1) The Twelfth Judicial District shall be composed of the counties
22 of Logan, Yell, and Conway.

23 (2) The Twelfth District shall have eight (8) departments as
24 follows:

25 (A) One (1) located in Morrilton;

26 (B) One (1) located in Menifee;

27 (C) One (1) located in Oppelo;

28 (D) One (1) located in Paris;

29 (E) One (1) located in Booneville;

30 (F) One (1) located in Magazine;

31 (G) One (1) located in Danville; and

32 (H) One (1) located in Dardanelle.

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

35 (4) The Twelfth Judicial District judge shall be elected
36 districtwide.

1 (5) The Twelfth Judicial District court shall have district-wide
2 jurisdiction.

3 (e)(1) The Thirteenth District is composed of the counties of Stone and
4 Cleburne.

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

6 (A) One (1) located in Heber Springs;

7 (B) One (1) located in Greers Ferry;

8 (C) One (1) located in Concord;

9 (D) One (1) located in Quitman; and

10 (E) One (1) located in Mountain View.

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

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

14 (5) The Thirteenth District court has district-wide jurisdiction.

15 (f)(1) The Fourteenth District is composed of the counties of
16 Independence, Fulton, and Izard.

17 (2) The Fourteenth District has six (6) departments as follows:

18 (A) One (1) located in Batesville;

19 (B) One (1) located in Melbourne;

20 (C) One (1) located in Calico Rock;

21 (D) One (1) located in Horseshoe Bend;

22 (E) One (1) located in Salem; and

23 (F) One (1) located in Mammoth Spring.

24 (3) The Fourteenth District is served by one (1) state district
25 court judge.

26 (4) The Fourteenth District judge is elected districtwide.

27 (5) The Fourteenth District court has district-wide jurisdiction.

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

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

32 (A) One (1) located in Newport;

33 (B) One (1) located in Diaz;

34 (C) One (1) located in Swifton;

35 (D) One (1) located in Tuckerman;

36 (E) One (1) located in Augusta;

- 1 (F) One (1) located in Cotton Plant;
2 (G) One (1) located in McCrory; and
3 (H) One (1) located in Patterson.
4 (3) The Fifteenth Judicial District shall be served by one (1)
5 state district court judge.
6 (4) The Fifteenth Judicial District judge shall be elected
7 districtwide.
8 (5) The Fifteenth Judicial District court shall have district-
9 wide jurisdiction.
10 (h)(1) The Sixteenth Judicial District shall be composed of the
11 counties of Monroe and Arkansas.
12 (2) The Sixteenth District shall have seven (7) departments as
13 follows:
14 (A) One (1) located in Stuttgart;
15 (B) One (1) located in DeWitt;
16 (C) One (1) located in Gillett;
17 (D) One (1) located in St. Charles;
18 (E) One (1) located in Brinkley;
19 (F) One (1) located in Clarendon; and
20 (G) One (1) located in Holly Grove.
21 (3) The Sixteenth Judicial District shall be served by one (1)
22 state district court judge.
23 (4) The Sixteenth Judicial District judge shall be elected
24 districtwide.
25 (5) The Sixteenth Judicial District court shall have district-
26 wide jurisdiction.
27 (i)(1) The Seventeenth District is composed of the counties of Clay and
28 Greene.
29 (2) The Seventeenth District has five (5) departments as follows:
30 (A) One (1) located in Paragould;
31 (B) One (1) located in Marmaduke;
32 (C) One (1) located in Corning;
33 (D) One (1) located in Piggott; and
34 (E) One (1) located in Rector.
35 (3) The Seventeenth District is served by one (1) state district
36 court judge.

1 (4) The Seventeenth District judge is elected districtwide.

2 (5) The Seventeenth District court has district-wide
3 jurisdiction.

4 (j)(1) The Twenty-Fourth Judicial District shall be composed of the
5 counties of Scott, Polk, and Montgomery.

6 (2) The Twenty-Fourth Judicial District shall have three (3)
7 departments as follows:

8 (A) One (1) located in Waldron;

9 (B) One (1) located in Mena; and

10 (C) One (1) located in Mt. Ida.

11 (3) The Twenty-Fourth Judicial District shall be served by one
12 (1) state district court judge.

13 (4) The Twenty-Fourth Judicial District judge shall be elected
14 districtwide.

15 (5) The Twenty-Fourth Judicial District courts shall have
16 district-wide jurisdiction.

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

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

21 (A) One (1) located in Forrest City;

22 (B) One (1) located in Madison;

23 (C) One (1) located in Palestine;

24 (D) One (1) located in Wynne;

25 (E) One (1) located in Cherry Valley; and

26 (F) One (1) located in Parkin.

27 (3) The Twenty-Fifth District is served by one (1) state
28 district court judge.

29 (4) The Twenty-Fifth District judge is elected districtwide.

30 (5) The Twenty-Fifth District court has district-wide
31 jurisdiction.

32 (l)(1) The Thirtieth District shall be composed of Lonoke County.

33 (2) The Thirtieth District shall have six (6) departments as
34 follows:

35 (A) One (1) located in Cabot;

36 (B) One (1) located in Ward;

1 (C) One (1) located in Austin;

2 (D) One (1) located in Lonoke;

3 (E) One (1) located in England; and

4 (F) One (1) located in Carlisle.

5 (3) The Thirtieth District shall be served by one (1) state
6 district court judge.

7 (4) The Thirtieth District judge shall be elected districtwide.

8 (5) The Thirtieth District court shall have district-wide
9 jurisdiction.

10
11 (m)(1) The Thirty-First District is composed of the counties of Pulaski
12 and Perry.

13 (2) The Thirty-First District has twelve (12) departments as
14 follows:

15 (A) One (1) located in Jacksonville, to be known as
16 Jacksonville District Court;

17 (B) Four (4) located in Little Rock, to be known as:

18 (i) Little Rock District Court – First Division;

19 (ii) Little Rock District Court – Second Division;

20 (iii) Little Rock District Court – Third Division;

21 and

22 (iv) Pulaski County District Court;

23 (C) One (1) located in Maumelle, to be known as Maumelle
24 District Court;

25 (D) Two (2) located in North Little Rock, to be known as:

26 (i) North Little Rock District Court – First

27 Division; and

28 (ii) North Little Rock District Court – Second

29 Division;

30 (E) One (1) located in Sherwood, to be known as Sherwood
31 District Court;

32 (F) One (1) located in Wrightsville, to be known as
33 Wrightsville District Court;

34 (G) One (1) located in Cammack Village, to be known as
35 Cammack Village District Court; and

36 (H) One (1) located in Perryville, to be known as

1 Perryville District Court.

2 (3) The Thirty-First District shall be served by eight (8) state
3 district judges. All the following judges shall be elected districtwide and
4 shall have district-wide jurisdiction:

5 (A) The Jacksonville District Court and the Maumelle
6 District Court shall be served by one (1) judge;

7 (B) The Little Rock District Court – First Division shall
8 be served by one (1) judge;

9 (C) The Little Rock District Court – Second Division shall
10 be served by one (1) judge;

11 (D) The Little Rock District Court – Third Division, the
12 Wrightsville District Court, and the Cammack Village District Court shall be
13 served by one (1) judge;

14 (E) The North Little Rock District Court – First Division
15 shall be served by one (1) judge;

16 (F) The North Little Rock District Court – Second Division
17 shall be served by one (1) judge;

18 (G) The Pulaski County District Court shall be served by
19 one (1) judge;

20 (H) The Sherwood District Court shall be served by one (1)
21 judge; and

22 (I) The Perryville District Court shall be served by one
23 (1) of the district court judges listed under subdivision (m)(3)(A) through
24 (H).

25 (n)(1) The Thirty-Sixth Judicial District shall be composed of the
26 counties of Little River, Sevier, and Howard.

27 (2) The Thirty-Sixth Judicial District shall have five (5)
28 departments as follows:

29 (A) One (1) located in Ashdown;

30 (B) One (1) located in Foreman;

31 (C) One (1) located in Winthrop;

32 (D) One (1) located in De Queen; and

33 (E) One (1) located in Nashville.

34 (3) The Thirty-Sixth Judicial District shall be served by one
35 (1) state district court judge.

36 (4) The Thirty-Sixth Judicial District judge shall be elected

1 districtwide.

2 (5) The Thirty-Sixth Judicial District courts shall have
3 district-wide jurisdiction.

4 (o)(1) The Thirty-Ninth Judicial District shall be composed of the
5 counties of Ouachita and Columbia.

6 (2) The Thirty-Ninth Judicial District shall have seven (7)
7 departments as follows:

8 (A) One (1) located in Magnolia;

9 (B) One (1) located in Waldo;

10 (C) One (1) located in Camden;

11 (D) One (1) located in East Camden;

12 (E) One (1) located in Bearden;

13 (F) One (1) located in Chidester; and

14 (G) One (1) located in Stephens.

15 (3) The Thirty-Ninth Judicial District shall be served by one
16 (1) state district court judge.

17 (4) The Thirty-Ninth Judicial District judge shall be elected
18 districtwide.

19 (5) The Thirty-Ninth Judicial District court shall have
20 district-wide jurisdiction.

21 (p)(1) The Fortieth District shall be composed of the counties of Clark
22 and Pike.

23 (2) The Fortieth District shall have four (4) departments as
24 follows:

25 (A) One (1) located in Arkadelphia;

26 (B) One (1) located in Amity;

27 (C) One (1) located in Caddo Valley;

28 (D) One (1) located in Gurdon;

29 (E) One (1) located in Murfreesboro; and

30 (F) One (1) located in Glenwood.

31 (3) The Fortieth District shall be served by one (1) state
32 district court judge.

33 (4) The Fortieth District judge shall be elected districtwide.

34 (5) The Fortieth District court shall have district-wide
35 jurisdiction.

36 (q)(1) The Forty-First Judicial District shall be composed of Garland

1 County.

2 (2) The Forty-First District shall have three (3) departments as
3 follows:

4 (A) Two (2) located in Hot Springs; and

5 (B) One (1) located in Mountain Pine.

6 (3) The Forty-First Judicial District shall be served by two (2)
7 state district court judges.

8 (4) The Forty-First Judicial District judges shall be elected
9 districtwide.

10 (5) The Forty-First Judicial District courts shall have
11 district-wide jurisdiction.

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13 */s/Vines*
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