

1 **State of Arkansas**  
2 **78th General Assembly**  
3 **Second Extraordinary Session, 1992**  
4 **By: Representative Wren**

# **A Bill**

**ACT 131 OF 1993**  
**HOUSE BILL 1115**

## **For An Act To Be Entitled**

8 "AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED 16-13-2803 TO  
9 CONVERT A CIRCUIT JUDGESHIP AND A CHANCERY JUDGESHIP TO  
10 CIRCUIT-CHANCERY JUDGESHIPS IN THE TWENTIETH DISTRICT; TO  
11 AUTHORIZE THE TEMPORARY EXCHANGE OF COURTS; TO AMEND  
12 ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED 16-13-2805; AND FOR OTHER  
13 PURPOSES. "

## **Subtitle**

16 **"AN ACT TO CONVERT A CIRCUIT JUDGESHIP AND A**  
17 **CHANCERY JUDGESHIP TO CIRCUIT-CHANCERY**  
18 **JUDGESHIPS IN THE TWENTIETH DISTRICT."**

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

22 **SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Annotated 16-13-2803 is amended to read as follows:**  
23 **"16-13-2803. Judges and chancellors.**

24 **(a) The qualified electors of the Twentieth District shall elect:**

- 25 **(1) One (1) circuit judge;**
- 26 **(2) One (1) chancellor; and**
- 27 **(3) One (1) circuit-chancery judge.**

28 **(b) The judgeship created by subdivision (a)(3) of this section shall be the judge of the**  
29 **juvenile division of chancery court.**

30 **The judge shall devote such time as may be required to perform the duties of judge of**  
31 **the juvenile division, which duties shall be the primary obligation of the judge, and shall sit as**  
32 **judge of the circuit, chancery, or probate court as time permits.**

33 **(c) Effective January 1, 1995, the circuit judgeship created by subdivision (a)(1) of this**  
34 **section shall become a circuit-chancery judgeship which shall have jurisdiction in law, equity,**  
35 **and probate.**

36 **(d) Effective January 1, 1997, the chancery judgeship created by subdivision (a)(2) of**

1 **this section shall become a circuit-chancery judgeship which shall have jurisdiction in law,**  
2 **equity, and probate.**

3 **(e) Effective upon passage of this act and terminating January 1, 1997, any judge**  
4 **created by this section may, by written agreement, and pursuant to A.C.A. 16-13-403 as**  
5 **amended by Act 51 of the First Extraordinary Session of 1992, sit on exchange and hear cases**  
6 **for any other judge or judges created by this section and hold court for each other for such**  
7 **length of time as may seem practicable and in the best interest of their respective courts. The**  
8 **agreements shall be signed by the judges so agreeing and entered on the record of the court or**  
9 **courts so to be held."**

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11 **SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Annotated 16-13-2805 is amended to read as follows:**

12 **"16-13-2805. Case coordinators.**

13 **(a) Hereafter, each of the judges of the Twentieth Judicial District shall be empowered**  
14 **and directed to employ a case coordinator, whose duties shall be the maintenance of the court**  
15 **calendar, setting dates for trial of cases and for hearing of motions, and other related and**  
16 **incidental duties as directed by said judges.**

17 **(b) The case coordinators shall be appointed by the judges of the Twentieth Judicial**  
18 **District, one (1) for each court, and shall serve at the will of the respective judge."**

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20 **SECTION 3. Section 4(b) of Act 802 of 1989 is hereby repealed.**

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22 **SECTION 4. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are**  
23 **amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision**  
24 **Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.**

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26 **SECTION 5. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or**  
27 **circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of**  
28 **the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end**  
29 **the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.**

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31 **SECTION 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed**

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33 **SECTION 7. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General**  
34 **Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the combination of the separation of the courts of law**  
35 **and equity in Arkansas and the amount of travel required of judges in the Twentieth District**

1 **creates an inefficient system of justice. It is further found that the decision of the Arkansas**  
2 **Supreme Court in Tony A. Lee v. Andre McNeil casts some doubt on the ability of judges**  
3 **within a single judicial district to exchange courts, and that this inability will seriously impair**  
4 **the timely and expeditious dispatch of business of the courts and cause unnecessary and**  
5 **expensive delay in the resolution of cases. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist**  
6 **and this act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and**  
7 **safety, shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.**

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**APPROVED: 02/15/93**