Act 1849 of the Regular Session

1	State of Arkansas	*As Engrossed: S3/31/05*
2	85th General Assembly	A Bill
3	Regular Session, 2005	HOUSE BILL 1989
4		
5	By: Representative Childers	

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For An Act To Be Entitled

9   AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON

10   DISTRICT COURTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

11

Subtitle

13   AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE LEGISLATIVE TASK

14   FORCE ON DISTRICT COURTS.

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

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19   SECTION 1. (a) There is created the Legislative Task Force on

20   District Courts. The task force shall be composed of the following members:

21   (1) Two (2) members of the Senate appointed by the Chair of the

22   Senate Interim Committee on Judiciary;

23   (2) Two (2) members of the House of Representatives appointed by

24   the Chair of the House Interim Committee on Judiciary;

25   (3) The Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court or his

26   designee;

27   (4) One (1) circuit judge appointed by the Arkansas Judicial

28   Council;

29   (5) Two (2) district judges appointed by the Arkansas District

30   Judges Council;

31   (6) One (1) member, who shall be engaged full-time in the

32   *private practice of law, appointed by the Arkansas Bar Association;*

33   *(7) One (1) member to be appointed by the Arkansas Municipal*

34   *League; and*

35   *(8) One (1) member to be appointed by the Association of*

1   *Arkansas Counties.*

2   (b)(1) The Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Judiciary shall

3   designate one (1) Senator as cochair of the task force.

4   (2) The Chair of the House Interim Committee on Judiciary shall

5   designate one (1) member of the House of Representatives as cochair of the

6   task force.

7   (c)(1) The task force shall conduct a comprehensive study of the

8   transition of district judges to state employee status and the funding and

9   role of district courts. The study shall include but shall not be limited

10 to:

11   (A) The adoption of a process to merge existing district

12 judges into a unified three tiered court system;

13   (B) The transition of district judges to state employees;

14   (C) The retention and allocation of court costs, fines and

15 other revenues;

16   (D) The merger of existing city and police courts into

17 district courts;

18   (E) The creation of a multiple tiered salary plan based on

19 caseload and other appropriate criteria;

20   (F) The effectiveness of utilization of additional

21 district judges of expanding the jurisdiction of existing district judges as

22 an alternative to the creation of additional circuit judges;

23   (G) The creation of either a separate district court

24 resource assessment board or expansion of the existing Judicial Resource

25 Assessment Committee to be authorized to determine creation, merger, or

26 *expansion of future district courts or positions;*

27   *(H) The effectiveness of any programs creating district*

28 *judgeships with expanded jurisdiction; and*

29   *(I) The impact of Amendment 80 of the Arkansas*

30 *Constitution on the district and city court systems.*

31   (2) The task force shall file a report of its findings and

32 recommendations for legislation with the Senate Interim Committee on

33 Judiciary and the House Interim Committee on Judiciary. The report by the

34 task force shall be filed by September 1, 2006.

35   (d) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff support for

36 the task force.

1   (e)   The task force may employ the services of one (1) or more experts

2   to advise the commission during the course of its study, if an appropriation

3   is made for that purpose.

4   (f)   The commission expires on December 31, 2006.

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6   */s/ Childers*

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9   *APPROVED: 04/08/2005*

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