

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003
4

As Engrossed: S3/17/03 S4/9/03

A Bill

Act 1727 of 2003
SENATE BILL 874

5 By: Senator Salmon
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH JUDICIAL DISTRICTS AND THE
10 NUMBER OF JUDGES FOR DISTRICT COURTS; AND FOR
11 OTHER PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

13 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH JUDICIAL DISTRICTS
14 AND THE NUMBER OF JUDGES FOR DISTRICT
15 COURTS.
16
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18

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

21 *SECTION 1. Definitions.*

22 As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

23 (1) "Department" means the physical location where sessions of
24 court are held; and

25 (2) "Division" means the subject matter division of the court.
26

27 *SECTION 2. (a)(1) Each of the following counties shall have one (1)*
28 *district court and one (1) district judge:*

29 (2) Baxter, Boone, Bradley, Calhoun, Clark, Cleburne, Cleveland,
30 Columbia, Conway, Crawford, Cross, Dallas, Drew, Faulkner, Fulton, Grant,
31 Greene, Hempstead, Hot Spring, Howard, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Johnson,
32 Lawrence, Lafayette, Lee, Lincoln, Little River, Madison, Marion, Miller,
33 Montgomery, Nevada, Newton, Perry, Pike, Poinsett, Polk, Pope, Randolph,
34 Scott, Searcy, Sevier, Sharp, St. Francis, Stone, Union, Van Buren, and
35 Woodruff.

36 (b) The district court shall be located in the county seat of the



1 counties listed in subdivision (a)(1) (B) of this section.

2 (c)(1) The judge of any district court located in a county with one
3 (1) district court shall be elected countywide.

4 (2) If there is only one (1) district court in a county, it
5 shall have countywide jurisdiction.

6
7 SECTION 3. Crittenden County shall have the following district courts
8 and judges:

9 (1) Marion shall have one (1) district court and one (1)
10 district judge.

11 (2) West Memphis shall have one (1) district court and one (1)
12 district judge.

13 (3) The jurisdiction of any district court in Crittenden County
14 shall be countywide.

15 (4) The judge of any district court in Crittenden County shall
16 be elected countywide.

17
18 SECTION 4. (a) Arkansas, Carroll, Franklin, Logan, Mississippi, and
19 Prairie counties, having two (2) judicial districts, shall have one (1)
20 district court in each district and one (1) district judge for each court:

21 (b) The district court in Arkansas, Carroll, Franklin, Logan,
22 Mississippi, and Prairie counties shall be located in the county seat of each
23 judicial district in the county.

24 (c) The judge of any district court located in Arkansas, Carroll,
25 Franklin, Logan, Mississippi, and Prairie counties shall be elected by the
26 electors of the judicial district in which the court is located.

27 (d) In Arkansas, Carroll, Franklin, Logan, Mississippi, and Prairie
28 counties the jurisdiction of the district court shall be limited to the
29 district in which the court sits.

30
31 SECTION 5. (a) Sebastian County, having two (2) judicial districts,
32 shall have:

33 (1) One (1) district court in Ft. Smith with two (2)
34 departments, and one (1) judge for each department; and

35 (2) One district court in Greenwood with one (1) district judge.

36 (b) The judge of any district court in Sebastian County shall be

1 elected by the electors of the judicial district in which the court is
2 located.

3 (c) The jurisdiction of the district court in Sebastian County shall
4 be limited to the district in which the court is located.

5
6 SECTION 6. (a) Craighead County, shall have one (1) district court in
7 Jonesboro and one (1) judge.

8 (b) The judge of the district court in Craighead County shall be
9 elected countywide.

10 (c) The district court in Craighead County shall have countywide
11 jurisdiction.

12
13 SECTION 7. (a) Clay County, having two (2) judicial districts, shall
14 have one (1) district court with two (2) departments, one (1) department
15 located in the county seat of each judicial district and both departments to
16 be served by one (1) judge.

17 (b) The judge of the district court in Clay County shall be elected
18 countywide.

19 (c) The district court in Clay County shall have countywide
20 jurisdiction.

21
22 SECTION 8. (a) Ashley County shall have one (1) district court with
23 two (2) departments, one (1) located in Crossett and one (1) located in
24 Hamburg and one (1) judge for each department.

25 (b) The judges of the district court in Ashley County shall be elected
26 countywide.

27 (c) The district court in Ashley County shall have countywide
28 jurisdiction.

29
30 SECTION 9. (a) Benton County shall have the following district courts
31 and judges:

32 (1) Rogers shall have one (1) district court and one (1)
33 district judge.

34 (2) Bentonville shall have one (1) district court and one (1)
35 district judge.

36 (3) Siloam Springs shall have one (1) district court and one (1)

1 district judge.

2 (4) Benton County West shall have one (1) district court and one
3 (1) district judge.

4 (5) The district court boundaries in Benton County shall be as
5 follows:

6 (A) District Court 1 - Rogers:

7 (i) All of State Representative Districts 94, 95,
8 and 96 as drawn by the Arkansas Board of Apportionment in 2002;

9 (ii) That part of State Representative District 98
10 as drawn by the Arkansas Board of Apportionment in 2002 that is in Benton
11 County Quorum Court District 1 as established by the Benton County Election
12 Commission;

13 (iii) That part of Benton County Quorum Court
14 District 6 as established by the County Election Commission that is in State
15 Representative District 96 and 98 as drawn by the Arkansas Board of
16 Apportionment in 2002; and

17 (iv) All of the now existing Precincts 43, 44, and
18 49.

19 (B) District Court 2 - Bentonville:

20 (i) All of Benton County Quorum Court Districts 7,
21 8, 9, and 10 as established by the Benton County Election Commission;

22 (ii) All of State Representative District 99 as
23 drawn by the Arkansas Board of Apportionment in 2002 except for the now
24 existing Precincts 43, 44, and 49; and

25 (iii) all of the now existing Precinct 45;

26 (C) District Court 3 - Siloam Springs:

27 (i) All of Benton County Quorum Court District 11 as
28 established by the Benton County Election Commission;

29 (ii) All of the now existing Precincts 6, 18, and
30 19; and

31 (iii) That part of the now existing Precinct 15
32 lying North of Shady Grove Road, Garman Road, and Springtown Road; and

33 (D) District Court 4 - Benton County West:

34 (i) All of State Representative District 97 as drawn
35 by the Arkansas Board of Apportionment in 2002; and

36 (ii) All of the now existing Precinct 7, 14, 16, and

1 17; that part of the now existing Precinct 15 lying South of Shady Grove
2 Road, Garman Road, and Springtown Road.

3 (b) The judge of any district court in Benton County shall be elected
4 by the qualified electors within the district in which the court is located.

5 (c) The jurisdiction of any district court in Benton County shall be
6 limited to the district in which the court is located.

7
8 SECTION 10. (a)(1) Chicot County shall have one (1) district court
9 with the following three (3) departments:

10 (A) One (1) located in Dermott;

11 (B) One (1) located in Eudora; and

12 (C) One (1) located in Lake Village.

13 (2) Each department shall have one (1) judge.

14 (b) The judges of the district court in Chicot County shall be elected
15 countywide.

16 (c) The district court located in Chicot County shall have countywide
17 jurisdiction.

18
19 SECTION 11. (a)(1) Desha County shall have one (1) district court
20 with the following two (2) departments:

21 (A) One (1) located in Dumas; and

22 (B) One (1) located in McGehee.

23 (2) Each department shall have one (1) judge.

24 (b) The judges of the district court in Desha County shall be elected
25 countywide.

26 (c) The district court located in Desha County shall have countywide
27 jurisdiction.

28
29 SECTION 12. (a) Garland County shall have:

30 (1) One (1) district court with two (2) departments and;

31 (2) One (1) judge for each department.

32 (b) The judges of the district court in Garland County shall be
33 elected countywide.

34 (c) The district court located in Garland County shall have countywide
35 jurisdiction.

36

1 SECTION 13. (a) Jefferson County shall have:

2 (1) Two (2) district courts located in Pine Bluff; and

3 (2) Two (2) district judges.

4 (b)(1) The judge of the Pine Bluff district court shall be elected by
5 the qualified electors of the City of Pine Bluff.

6 (2) The Pine Bluff district court shall have jurisdiction only
7 within the city limits of Pine Bluff, as now or in the future may be
8 constituted.

9 (c)(1) The judge of the Jefferson County district court shall be
10 elected countywide.

11 (2) The Jefferson County district court shall have countywide
12 jurisdiction.

13
14 SECTION 14. (a) Lonoke County, having two (2) judicial districts
15 shall have the following district courts and judges:

16 (1) The Northern District of Lonoke County shall have:

17 (A) One (1) district court located in Cabot; and

18 (B) One (1) district judge.

19 (2)(A) The Southern District of Lonoke County shall have one (1)
20 district court with three (3) departments as follows:

21 (i) One (1) department located in Lonoke to be
22 served by one (1) judge;

23 (ii) One (1) department located in England to be
24 served by one (1) judge; and

25 (iii) One (1) department located in Carlisle to be
26 served by one (1) judge.

27 (b) The district court boundaries in Lonoke County shall be as
28 follows:

29 (1) The northern district shall consist of the townships of
30 Butler, Caroline, Cleveland, Eagle, Goodrum, Magness, Oak Grove, Prairie,
31 Totten, Ward, and York; and

32 (2) The southern district shall consist of the townships of
33 Carlisle, Crooked Creek, Dortch, Fletcher, Furlow, Gum Woods, Gray, Hamilton,
34 Indian Bayou, Isabel, Lafayette, and Lonoke.

35 (c) The judge of any district court in Lonoke County shall be elected
36 by the qualified electors of the judicial district in which the court is

1 located.

2 (d) The jurisdiction of the district court in Lonoke County shall be
3 limited to the district in which the court is located.

4
5 SECTION 15. (a)(1) Monroe County shall have one (1) district court
6 with two (2) departments as follows:

7 (A) One (1) located in Brinkley; and

8 (B) One (1) located in Clarendon.

9 (2) One (1) judge for each department.

10 (b) The judges of the district court in Monroe County shall be elected
11 countywide.

12 (c) The district court located in Monroe County shall have countywide
13 jurisdiction.

14
15 SECTION 16. (a)(1) Ouachita County shall have two (2) district courts
16 as follows:

17 (A) One (1) located in Camden; and

18 (B) One (1) located in East Camden.

19 (2) One (1) judge for each court.

20 (b)(1) The judge of the district court in Camden shall be elected
21 countywide.

22 (2) The district court in Camden shall have countywide
23 jurisdiction.

24 (c)(1) The judge of the district court in East Camden shall be elected
25 by the qualified electors of the city of East Camden.

26 (2) The district court in East Camden shall have citywide
27 jurisdiction only.

28
29 SECTION 17. (a)(1) Phillips County shall have one (1) district court
30 with two (2) departments as follows:

31 (A) One (1) located in Helena; and

32 (B) One (1) located in West Helena.

33 (2) One (1) judge for each department.

34 (b) The judges of the district court in Phillips County shall be
35 elected countywide.

36 (c) The district court in Phillips County shall have countywide

1 jurisdiction.

2
3 SECTION 18. (a) Saline County shall have one (1) district court with
4 two (2) departments as follows:

5 (1) One (1) located in Benton with one (1) judge; and

6 (2) One (1) located in Bryant with one (1) judge.

7 (b) The judges of the district court in Saline County shall be elected
8 countywide.

9 (c) The district court in Saline County shall have countywide
10 jurisdiction.

11
12 SECTION 19. (a) Washington County shall have the following district
13 courts and judges:

14 (1) Springdale shall have one (1) district court and one (1)
15 judge.

16 (2) Fayetteville shall have one (1) district court and one (1)
17 judge.

18 (3) Elkins shall have one (1) district court and one (1) judge.

19 (4) West Fork shall have one (1) district court and one (1)
20 judge.

21 (5) Prairie Grove shall have one (1) district court and one (1)
22 judge.

23 (6) The District Court boundaries in Washington County shall be
24 as follows:

25 (A) Springdale. The city limits of Springdale as now or
26 in the future constituted, the townships of Elm Springs, Tontitown, Harmon
27 and that portion of the township of Johnson that lies outside the city limits
28 of Fayetteville;

29 (B) Fayetteville. The city limits of Fayetteville as now
30 or in the future constituted;

31 (C) Elkins. The townships of Brush Creek, Springdale 1,
32 Prairie 1, Goshen, Wyman, Prairie 2, Richland, Richland Senate, White River,
33 and Durham;

34 (D) West Fork. The townships of Valley, West Fork,
35 Crawford, Reed, Winslow, Lee's Creek, Cove Creek, Boston, Vineyard, and that
36 portion of Greenland that lies outside the city limits of Fayetteville; and

1 (E) Prairie Grove. The townships of Prairie 4, Wheeler,
2 Litteral, Center House, Center, Prairie Grove Senate, Prairie Grove, Marrs
3 Hill, Weddington, Illinois, Rheas, Price, Starr Hill, Dutch Mills, Morrow,
4 and Cane Hill.

5 (b) The judge of any district court in Washington County shall be
6 elected by the qualified electors within the district in which the court is
7 located.

8 (c) The jurisdiction of any district court in Washington County shall
9 be limited to the district in which the court is located.

10
11 SECTION 20. (a)(1) White County shall have one (1) district court
12 with two (2) departments as follows:

13 (A) One (1) located in Beebe, and

14 (B) One (1) located in Searcy

15 (2) One (1) judge for each department.

16 (b) The judges of the district court in White County shall be elected
17 countywide.

18 (c) The district court in White County shall have countywide
19 jurisdiction.

20
21 SECTION 21. Pulaski County shall have the following district courts
22 and judges:

23 (1) Jacksonville shall have:

24 (A) One (1) district court with jurisdiction only within
25 the city limits of Jacksonville, as now or in the future may be constituted,
26 and

27 (B) One (1) judge to be elected by the qualified electors
28 of the City of Jacksonville.

29 (2) Little Rock shall have:

30 (A) Three (3) departments of one (1) district court with
31 jurisdiction only within the city limits of Little Rock, as now or in the
32 future may be constituted, and

33 (B) One (1) judge for each department to be elected by the
34 qualified electors of the City of Little Rock.

35 (3) North Little Rock shall have:

36 (A) Two (2) departments of one (1) district court with

1 jurisdiction only within the city limits of North Little Rock, as now or in
2 the future may be constituted; and

3 (B) One (1) judge for each department to be elected by the
4 qualified electors of the city of North Little Rock.

5 (4) Maumelle shall have:

6 (A) One (1) district court with jurisdiction only within
7 the city limits of Maumelle, as now or in the future may be constituted, and

8 (B) One (1) judge to be elected by the qualified electors
9 of the City of Maumelle.

10 (5)(A) Pulaski County shall have one (1) district court with the
11 following three (3) departments:

12 (i) One (1) located in Pulaski County known as the
13 Pulaski County District Court;

14 (ii) One (1) located in Sherwood known as the
15 Sherwood District Court; and

16 (iii) One (1) located in Wrightsville known as the
17 Wrightsville District Court.

18 (B) Each department shall have one judge.

19 (C) The judges of the district court in Pulaski County
20 shall be elected county wide.

21 (D) The district court located in Pulaski County shall
22 have county wide jurisdiction.

23
24 SECTION 22. (a)(1) Yell County, having two (2) judicial districts
25 shall have two (2) district courts with one (1) department located in the
26 Northern District.

27 (2) The two (2) judicial districts shall each have one (1) part
28 time judge serviced by the one (1) department in the Northern District.

29 (b) The salary provided for the Yell County District Court Judge shall
30 be divided at the rate of sixty-five percent (65%) for payment to the
31 Northern District Judge and thirty-five percent (35%) to the Southern
32 District Judge.

33 (c) The judge of each district court in Yell County shall have
34 jurisdiction within each respective Northern and Southern District.

35 (d) The judge shall be elected within each respective district.

36

1 SECTION 23. There is established for the District Courts of this state
2 a District Court Coordinator who shall be a private contractor and receive
3 professional fees in the amount of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for
4 fiscal year 2003-2004 and fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for fiscal year
5 2004-2005 to be payable from the State Administration of Justice Fund.

6
7 SECTION 24. (a) District courts shall be established under this
8 subchapter on the effective date of this act.

9 (b) The voters, at the 2004 nonpartisan judicial general election,
10 shall elect the number of district judges established under this subchapter,
11 to take office effective January 1, 2005.

12
13 /s/ Salmon

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16 APPROVED: 4/22/2003

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