

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

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

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Annotated 16-13-2803 is amended to read as follows:

"16-13-2803. Judges and chancellors.

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

- (1) One (1) circuit judge;
- (2) One (1) chancellor; and
- (3) One (1) circuit-chancery judge.

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

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

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

(d) Effective January 1, 1997, the chancery judgeship created by subdivision (a)(2) of this section shall become a circuit-chancery judgeship which shall have jurisdiction in law, equity, and probate.

(e) Effective upon passage of this act and terminating January 1, 1997, any judge created by this section may, by written agreement, and pursuant to A. C. A. 16-13-403 as amended by Act 51 of the First Extraordinary Session of 1992, sit on exchange and hear cases for any other judge or judges created by this section and hold court for each other for such length of time as may seem practicable and in

1 *the best interest of their respective courts. The agreements shall be signed by the judges so agreeing and entered on the record of the court or*
2 *courts so to be held."*

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

5 *"16-13-2805. Case coordinators.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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23 *SECTION 7. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the*
24 *combination of the separation of the courts of law and equity in Arkansas and the amount of travel required of judges in the Twentieth District*
25 *creates an inefficient system of justice. It is further found that the decision of the Arkansas Supreme Court in Tony A. Lee v. Andre McNeil*
26 *casts some doubt on the ability of judges within a single judicial district to exchange courts, and that this inability will seriously impair the*
27 *timely and expeditious dispatch of business of the courts and cause unnecessary and expensive delay in the resolution of cases. Therefore, an*
28 *emergency is hereby declared to exist and this act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, shall be*
29 *in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.*

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