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1 State of Arkansas
                                        A Bill
 2 81st General Assembly
                                                                    HOUSE BILL
 3 Regular Session, 1997
                                                                                 1845
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 5 By: Representatives Goodwin and Wilson
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 7
                              For An Act To Be Entitled
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 9
           "AN ACT CONCERNING SUMMONS OF PETIT JURORS; AND FOR OTHER
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          PURPOSES."
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                                      Subtitle
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13
                     "AN ACT CONCERNING SUMMONS OF PETIT
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                     JURORS."
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16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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         SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 16-32-106 is amended to read as follows:
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         "16-32-106. Summons of petit jurors.
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         (a) The persons whose names have been drawn and recorded in the petit
21 jury book shall be summoned to appear on a date set by the court to answer
22 questions concerning their qualifications and, unless excused or disqualified,
23 to serve the required number of days or for the maximum period during the
24 calendar year for which selected unless sooner discharged.
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          (b) Jurors shall be summoned by the sheriff by \div (1) A a notice
26 dispatched by first-class mail; or.
              (2) Notice given personally on the telephone; or
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               (3) Service of summons personally or by such other method as is
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29 permitted or prescribed by law.
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         (c)(1) If a notice is dispatched by first-class mail, In the notice the
    prospective jurors shall be given a date certain to call notify the sheriff,
32 either by mail or in person, to confirm receipt of the notice. Not later than
33 five (5) days before the prospective juror is to appear, the sheriff shall
34 call the prospective juror if the prospective juror has failed to acknowledge
35 receipt of the notice.
                (2) A The notice dispatched by first-class mail shall include the
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1 following language: 3 You are hereby notified that you have been chosen as a prospective 4 juror. You must call sign and return this notice to the sheriff on or before 5 . . . . . (date) . . . . to confirm that you have received this notice. 6 If you do not call the sheriff to confirm return this notice, you will be in 7 <u>violation of state law and subject to a fine</u> of no less than five dollars 8 (\$5.00) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500) or community service or 9 imprisonment for not more than three (3) days. the sheriff will contact you 10 and there will be added cost. Please call the sheriff at . 11 number) . . . . . . . . . . . . . If there is some reason you feel you cannot serve 12 as a juror, please be aware that as a prospective juror you can only be 13 excused by the court. The sheriff has no authority to excuse any prospective 14 jurors. 15 (d) Unless excused by the circuit judge, a juror who has been legally 16 summoned and who shall fail to attend on any date when directed to do so may 17 be fined in any sum not less than five dollars (\$5.00) nor more than five 18 hundred dollars (\$500) or community service or imprisonment for not more than 19 three (3) days. However, nothing in this subsection shall be construed to 20 limit the inherent power of the court to punish for contempt. All excuses 21 granted by the circuit judge shall be noted in the jury book. 22 23 SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature 24 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code 25 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code. 26 27 SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to 28 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect 29 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without 30 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this 31 act are declared to be severable. 32 SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are 33

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34 hereby repealed.

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