

"AN ACT TO CREATE AND ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL CIRCUIT JUDGESHIPS, CHANCERY JUDGESHIPS AND CIRCUIT-CHANCERY JUDGESHIPS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT AND CHANCERY COURT CIRCUITS IN THIS STATE, TO EXTEND THE EXISTENCE OF THE STATE BOARD OF JUDICIAL REAPPORTIONMENT CREATED BY ACT 826 OF 1985; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. There is hereby created and established, in addition to all other circuit judgeships, chancery judgeships, and circuit-chancery judgeships previously created and presently existing, additional circuit judgeships, chancery judgeships and/or circuit-chancery judgeships, in the following respective circuit court and chancery court circuits of this State:

(a) Sixth Judicial and Chancery Circuit. In the Sixth Judicial and Chancery Circuit, composed of Perry and Pulaski Counties, there is hereby created one (1) additional circuit judgeship and two (2) additional chancery judgeships.

(b) Seventh Judicial and Chancery Circuit. In the Seventh Judicial and Chancery Circuit, composed of Saline, Hot Spring and Grant Counties, there is hereby created one (1) additional circuit-chancery judgeship which shall have jurisdiction in law, equity and probate.

(c) Eighteenth-East Judicial and Chancery Circuit. In the Eighteenth-East Judicial and Chancery Circuit, composed of Garland County, there is hereby created one (1) additional circuit-chancery judgeship which shall have jurisdiction in law, equity and probate.

SECTION 2. The additional circuit judges, chancery judges, and circuit-chancery judges provided for in this Act shall be elected at the General Election in 1988, to take office on January 1, 1989, and thereafter as provided by law.

SECTION 3. The circuit judges, chancery judges and circuit-chancery judges of the circuits subject to this Act may, by agreement, hold either of the circuit or chancery courts in their respective circuits and may hear and try matters pending in any such courts, or may hear or try matters in the same court at the same time. The judges subject to this Act may adopt such rules as they deem appropriate for the assignment of cases in the circuit and chancery courts of their circuit.

SECTION 4. Each of the newly created circuit, chancery and circuit-chancery judges provided for in this Act are hereby authorized to employ a court reporter. Such court reporters shall receive such compensation as is now or may hereafter be provided by law.

SECTION 5. The State Board of Judicial Reapportionment, created and established by Act 826 of 1985, will continue to exist until December 31, 1988, at which time such Board will cease to exist, and prior to December 31, 1988, such State Board of Judicial Reapportionment shall prepare a comprehensive plan reapportioning the existing judicial circuits of this State, and recommending the number and type of judges required under such reapportionment. The Board shall present such plans and recommendations to the Arkansas General Assembly for its consideration during its regular session in 1989.

SECTION 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

APPROVED: April 8, 1987

---