

By: Representative Jordan

"AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 14-14-1204 TO RAISE THE MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM SALARIES FOR ELECTED COUNTY OFFICERS IN THE VARIOUS CLASSES OF COUNTIES; TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 14-14-1205 (a) TO INCREASE PER DIEM FOR QUORUM COURT MEMBERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 14-14-1204 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"14-14-1204. Compensation of elected county officers.

(a) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH COMPENSATION LEVELS. The quorum court of each county shall, by ordinance, fix the annual salaries of the following county officers within the minimum and maximum provided in this section: The county judge; the sheriff and ex officio collector of taxes; the collector of taxes, where established by law; the circuit clerk; the county clerk, where established by law; the assessor; the treasurer; the coroner; and surveyor.

(b) CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTIES. For purposes of determining the salaries of the elected county officers, unless otherwise specifically provided in this section, the counties shall be classified on the basis of population as determined by the preceding Federal Decennial Census according to the following classifications:

Classification	Population
Class 1	0 to 9,999
Class 2	10,000 to 19,999
Class 3	20,000 to 29,999
Class 4	30,000 to 49,999
Class 5	50,000 to 69,999
Class 6	70,000 to 199,999
Class 7	200,000 and above

(c) JUDGE OF THE COUNTY COURT. (1) The annual salary of a county judge shall be in compensation for his services as the executive and administrator for the county, as judge of the county court, as judge of the court of common pleas, where established, as presiding officer of the quorum court, and for all other services performed as provided by the Arkansas Constitution, by law, or by county ordinance.

(2) The minimum and maximum salaries per annum of the county judge of a county shall be as follows:

Classification	Salary Per Annum
Class 1	not less than \$18,000 nor more than \$32,640
Class 2	not less than \$19,000 nor more than \$34,095
Class 3	not less than \$20,000 nor more than \$35,550
Class 4	not less than \$21,000 nor more than \$37,005
Class 5	not less than \$22,000 nor more than \$38,459

Class 6	not less than \$23,000
	nor more than \$44,278
Class 7	not less than \$24,000
	nor more than \$47,188

(d) SHERIFF. (1) The annual salary of a sheriff shall be in compensation for services as a law enforcement officer, as the supervisor of the county jail, as custodian of persons accused or convicted of crime, as an officer of the circuit, chancery, or county courts, and as the ex officio county tax collector and delinquent tax collector in those counties where that office is combined with the office of sheriff, and for all other services performed as provided by the Arkansas Constitution, by law, or by county ordinance. In any county in which the office of sheriff and the office of collector is combined into a single office, the maximum and minimum salaries of the county shall be one thousand three hundred ninety-two dollars (\$1,392) greater than those prescribed for the appropriate class of county in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(2) The minimum and maximum salaries per annum of the sheriff of a county shall be as follows:

Classification	Salary Per Annum
Class 1	not less than \$18,000
	nor more than \$32,640
Class 2	not less than \$19,000
	nor more than \$34,095
Class 3	not less than \$20,000
	nor more than \$35,550
Class 4	not less than \$21,000
	nor more than \$37,005
Class 5	not less than \$22,000
	nor more than \$38,459
Class 6	not less than \$23,000
	nor more than \$44,278
Class 7	not less than \$24,000
	nor more than \$47,188

(e) COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR. (1) In those counties where the office of county tax collector has been separated from the office of sheriff, the annual salary of a county tax collector shall be in compensation for services as tax collector and delinquent tax collector, and for all other services performed as provided by the Arkansas Constitution, by law, or by county ordinance.

(2) The minimum and maximum salaries per annum of the county tax collector in those counties where the office has been separated from the office of sheriff shall be as follows:

Classification	Salary Per Annum
Class 1	not less than \$15,000
	nor more than \$28,276
Class 2	not less than \$16,000
	nor more than \$29,731
Class 3	not less than \$17,000
	nor more than \$31,186
Class 4	not less than \$18,000
	nor more than \$32,640
Class 5	not less than \$19,000
	nor more than \$34,095
Class 6	not less than \$20,000
	nor more than \$38,459
Class 7	not less than \$21,000
	nor more than \$41,369

(f) COUNTY AND PROBATE CLERK. (1) The annual salary of a county and

probate clerk shall be in compensation for his services as county clerk, probate clerk, clerk of the county court, clerk of the quorum court, and registrar of voters, and for all other services performed as provided by the Arkansas Constitution, by law, or by county ordinance. In those counties where the office of county and probate clerk is combined with the office of circuit clerk and ex officio recorder, the salary shall be as provided in this section. In those counties where the office of county and probate clerk is combined with the office of circuit clerk and ex officio recorder, the minimum and maximum salaries shall be one thousand three hundred ninety-two dollars (\$1,392) greater than those prescribed for the appropriate class of county in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(2) The minimum and maximum salaries per annum of the county and probate clerk of a county shall be as follows:

Classification	Salary Per Annum
Class 1	not less than \$15,000 nor more than \$28,276
Class 2	not less than \$16,000 nor more than \$29,731
Class 3	not less than \$17,000 nor more than \$31,186
Class 4	not less than \$18,000 nor more than \$32,640
Class 5	not less than \$19,000 nor more than \$34,095
Class 6	not less than \$20,000 nor more than \$38,459
Class 7	not less than \$21,000 nor more than \$41,369

(g) CIRCUIT CLERK. (1) The annual salary of a circuit clerk and ex officio recorder shall be in compensation for his services as clerk of the circuit court, as clerk of the chancery court, and as ex officio recorder, and for all other services performed as provided by the Arkansas Constitution, by law, or by county ordinance. In those counties where the office of circuit clerk and ex officio recorder is combined with the office of county and probate clerk, the minimum and maximum salaries shall be one thousand three hundred ninety-two dollars (\$1,392) greater than those prescribed for the appropriate class of county in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(2) The minimum and maximum salaries per annum of the circuit clerk and ex officio recorder of a county shall be as follows:

Classification	Salary Per Annum
Class 1	not less than \$15,000 nor more than \$28,276
Class 2	not less than \$16,000 nor more than \$29,731
Class 3	not less than \$17,000 nor more than \$31,186
Class 4	not less than \$18,000 nor more than \$32,640
Class 5	not less than \$19,000 nor more than \$34,095
Class 6	not less than \$20,000 nor more than \$38,459
Class 7	not less than \$21,000 nor more than \$41,369

(3) In those counties where the separate office of the clerk of the chancery court shall have been created by law, the minimum and maximum salaries shall be as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(h) COUNTY ASSESSOR. (1) The annual salary of a county assessor shall be in compensation for all services performed as county assessor and appraiser, and as provided by the Arkansas Constitution, by law, or by county ordinance.

(2) The minimum and maximum salaries per annum of the county assessor of a county shall be as follows:

Classification	Salary Per Annum
Class 1	not less than \$15,000 nor more than \$28,276
Class 2	not less than \$16,000 nor more than \$29,731
Class 3	not less than \$17,000 nor more than \$31,186
Class 4	not less than \$18,000 nor more than \$32,640
Class 5	not less than \$19,000 nor more than \$34,095
Class 6	not less than \$20,000 nor more than \$38,459
Class 7	not less than \$21,000 nor more than \$41,369

(i) COUNTY TREASURER. (1) The annual salary of a county treasurer shall be in compensation for all services performed as provided by the Arkansas Constitution, by law, or by county ordinance.

(2) The minimum and maximum salaries per annum for the county treasurer of a county shall be as follows:

Classification	Salary Per Annum
Class 1	not less than \$15,000 nor more than \$28,276
Class 2	not less than \$16,000 nor more than \$29,731
Class 3	not less than \$17,000 nor more than \$31,186
Class 4	not less than \$18,000 nor more than \$32,640
Class 5	not less than \$19,000 nor more than \$34,095
Class 6	not less than \$20,000 nor more than \$38,459
Class 7	not less than \$21,000 nor more than \$41,369

(j) COUNTY CORONER. (1) The compensation of a county coroner shall be for all services performed as provided by the Arkansas Constitution, by law, or by county ordinance.

(2) The minimum and maximum salaries per annum of the county coroner of a county shall be as follows:

Classification	Salary Per Annum
Classes 1 and 2	not less than \$1,200 not more than \$6,136
Classes 3 and 4	not less than \$1,882 not more than \$9,774
Classes 5 and 6	not less than \$2,564 nor more than \$24,321
Class 7	not less than \$3,246 nor more than \$27,892

(k) COUNTY SURVEYOR. Compensation of the county surveyor shall be fixed by the quorum court of each county at a rate not to exceed thirty-six dollars (\$36.00) per hour."

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code 14-14-1205 (a) is hereby amended to read as follows:

"(a) JUSTICES OF THE PEACE SERVING AS MEMBERS OF A QUORUM COURT.

(1) PER DIEM COMPENSATION. (A) The per diem compensation for justices of the peace attending any official, regular, special, or committee meeting of a quorum court shall be fixed by ordinance in each county.

(B) The per diem compensation of justices during any one (1) calendar year shall be not less than seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per diem for each regular meeting nor exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) in counties having a population of less than two hundred thousand (200,000) and shall not exceed seven thousand dollars (\$7,000.00) in counties having a population of two hundred thousand (200,000) or more.

(2) PER DIEM COMPENSATION DEFINED. Per diem compensation is defined as a per calendar day allowance, exclusive of allowable expenses, which shall be paid a justice for attending meetings of the county quorum court. This compensation shall be based on attending meetings of a quorum court during any single calendar day without regard to the duration of the meetings."

SECTION 3. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly that the ranges of compensation now provided by law for the various county officials are inadequate to permit reasonable and equitable compensation to such officials for their services; that this act is designed to permit the compensation of such officers to be increased to a fair level and to enable such officers to cope with the high rate of inflation, and should be given effect immediately. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

APPROVED: March 20, 1989
