

Act 864 of the 1989 Regular Session.

Act 864

HB1606

By: Representative Mahony

"AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL TO DEVELOP CRITERIA CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW JUDGESHIPS OR REDISTRICTING OF CIRCUIT AND CHANCERY COURT CIRCUITS; TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING THE BOUNDARIES OF SUCH CIRCUITS AND THE NUMBER AND KINDS OF JUDGES IN EACH COURT CIRCUIT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. The Arkansas Judicial Council, hereinafter referred to as the "council", is authorized and directed to develop criteria for new judgeships or redistricting of the Circuit and Chancery Court Circuits of this State and to make recommendations to the regular or special session of the General Assembly regarding the number and boundaries of the Circuit and Chancery Court Circuits in the State, the number and types of judges in each of such circuits, and such other matters regarding circuit and chancery courts in the State as it determines to be appropriate.

SECTION 2. In establishing Circuit and Chancery Court Circuits of this State, the council shall take into consideration caseload, geographic area to be served by the respective Circuit Courts and Chancery Courts, and such other matters as the Council determines to be appropriate.

SECTION 3. The council shall meet on or before November 1 of each even-numbered year to finalize criteria for establishing additional judgeships or redistricting during the next regular session of the General Assembly.

SECTION 4. (a) All bills introduced in either house of the General Assembly to change any of the existing circuit and chancery court circuits through redistricting or by providing additional judgeships shall be referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee if the bill is from the Senate, or the House Judiciary Committee if the bill is from the House of Representatives.

(b) The Senate or House Judiciary Committee shall request a letter certifying whether or not the proposed change meets the criteria of the council which shall be certified by the secretary-treasurer of the Judicial Council.

(c) No bill to change any of the existing circuit and chancery court circuits through redistricting or providing additional judgeships shall be acted upon in either committee until a letter certifying that the proposed change meets the criteria has been attached to the bill. Upon suspension of the Joint Rules of the House and Senate, a bill may be withdrawn from the House or Senate Judiciary Committee and acted upon without the certification of the council attached thereto.

SECTION 5. 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 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are

hereby repealed.

APPROVED: March 22, 1989

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