

Act 949 of the 1989 Regular Session.

Act 949

HB1480

By: Representative Shaver

"AN ACT TO CREATE NEW CIRCUIT-CHANCERY JUDGESHIPS, THE JUDGE OF WHICH SHALL SERVE AS THE JUDGE OF THE JUVENILE DIVISION OF CHANCERY COURT; TO PROVIDE EACH NEW JUDGE A COURT REPORTER AND COURT FACILITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. (a) (1) The following additional circuit-chancery judgeships are hereby created:

(A) One (1) circuit-chancery judgeship in the First Judicial District;

(B) One (1) circuit-chancery judgeship in the Second Judicial District;

(C) One (1) circuit-chancery judgeship in the Fourth Judicial District;

(D) One (1) circuit-chancery judgeship in the Fifth Judicial District;

(E) One (1) circuit-chancery judgeship in the Sixth Judicial District;

(F) One (1) circuit-chancery judgeship in the Seventh Judicial District;

(G) One (1) circuit-chancery judgeship in the Eighth Judicial District;

(H) One (1) circuit-chancery judgeship in the Tenth Judicial District;

(I) One (1) circuit-chancery judgeship in the Eleventh Judicial District West;

(J) One (1) circuit-chancery judgeship in the Twelfth Judicial District;

(K) One (1) circuit-chancery judgeship in the Thirteenth Judicial District;

(L) One (1) circuit-chancery judgeship in the Fourteenth Judicial District;

(M) One (1) circuit-chancery judgeship in the Fifteenth Judicial District;

(N) One (1) circuit-chancery judgeship in the Sixteenth Judicial District;

(O) One (1) circuit-chancery judgeship in the Eighteenth-East Judicial District; and

(P) One (1) circuit-chancery judgeship in the Nineteenth Judicial District;

(Q) One (1) circuit-chancery judgeship in the Twentieth Judicial District.

(2) Each judge of a judgeship created by this section shall be the judge of the juvenile division of chancery court. The judge shall serve as judge of the juvenile division in lieu of the judge who would otherwise be designated as judge of the juvenile division of chancery court in the judicial circuit. Further, the chancery judges of the Sixth Judicial District may designate by agreement not more than two (2) of the Sixth Judicial District

chancery judges who shall serve as judges of the juvenile division of chancery court in addition to the circuit-chancery judgeship created herein.

(b) The judgeships created by this section shall be effective on and after August 1, 1989. The Governor shall appoint a person to serve in each position from August 1, 1989, through December 31, 1990.

(c) The qualified electors of the respective judicial circuits shall elect the additional circuit-chancery judges at the November, 1990, General Election to take office on January 1, 1991. The additional judges shall be elected in the same manner and shall satisfy the same qualifications for holding office and shall receive the same salary, expenses and other allowances as provided by law for judges of circuit-chancery courts. The judges shall serve for elected terms of four (4) years.

(d) The judges of the additional circuit-chancery judgeships created in this section shall devote such time as may be required to perform the duties of judges 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.

SECTION 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Arkansas Juvenile Code of 1989, or any other enactment which might be interpreted otherwise, the chancery court or any division of chancery court shall have jurisdiction for all cases and matters relating to paternity.

SECTION 3. In each judicial circuit in which an additional circuit-chancery judge is created pursuant to this Act, the county or counties located in the judicial circuit shall provide courtroom and office facilities and supplies required for the juvenile division of the chancery court of the county, which shall be paid out of the county treasury of the county or counties in the same manner as other demands against the county or counties, out of funds appropriated by the quorum court of the county or counties for such purposes.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated 16-13-2703 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"16-13-2703. Judges and chancellors.

(a) The qualified electors of the Nineteenth District shall elect one (1) circuit judge and one (1) chancellor.

(b) In the Nineteenth Judicial and Chancery District, there shall be one (1) additional circuit-chancery judgeship which shall have jurisdiction in law, equity, and probate. Effective July 1, 1989, and thereafter, this judgeship shall be converted to a circuit judgeship which shall have jurisdiction only in law.

(c) Effective July 1, 1989, there is hereby created and established, in addition to all other circuit judgeships, chancery judgeships and circuit-chancery judgeships in the Nineteenth Judicial and Chancery District, one (1) additional chancery judgeship which shall have jurisdiction in equity and probate. The Governor shall appoint a person to serve in such position from July 1, 1989 through December 31, 1990. The qualified electors of the Nineteenth Judicial and Chancery District shall elect the chancery judge provided for herein at the November, 1990, General Election to take office on January 1, 1991.

(d) The chancery judge created pursuant to this section is authorized to employ a court reporter, a case coordinator, and such other personnel as shall be necessary for the court to effectively and efficiently carry out its responsibilities."

SECTION 5. In each judicial circuit in which an additional circuit-chancery judgeship is created pursuant to this Act, there shall be provided a court reporter whose salary shall be fixed and paid in the manner provided by law for court reporters of the circuit and chancery courts of this state.

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

SECTION 7. 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 8. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly that the juvenile division of chancery court is to be created to replace the juvenile court system provided for in Act 14 of 1987 and that the immediate passage of this Act is necessary to insure that there is an orderly and efficient administration of the juvenile justice system of this state. 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 27, 1989

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