Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law. Act 691 of the Regular Session

1	State of Arkansas
2	95th General Assembly A Bill
3	Regular Session, 2025HOUSE BILL 1835
4	
5	By: Representative Dalby
6	By: Senator Dees
7 8	For An Act To Be Entitled
9	AN ACT CONCERNING SPECIALTY COURT PROGRAMS; TO AMEND
10	THE LAW CONCERNING RECORD SEALING UPON COMPLETION OF
11	A SPECIALTY COURT PROGRAM; TO UPDATE AND CLARIFY THE
12	LAW CONCERNING DRUG COURT, MENTAL HEALTH COURT,
13	VETERANS COURT, AND DWI/BWI SPECIALTY COURT PROGRAMS;
14	AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
15	
16	
17	Subtitle
18	CONCERNING SPECIALTY COURT PROGRAMS; AND
19	TO UPDATE AND CLARIFY THE LAW CONCERNING
20	DRUG COURT, MENTAL HEALTH COURT,
21	VETERANS COURT, AND DWI/BWI SPECIALTY
22	COURT PROGRAMS.
23	
24	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
25	
26	SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 5-4-906 is repealed.
27	5-4-906. Record sealing upon completion.
28	(a) A pre-adjudication probation program judge, on his or her own
29	motion or upon a request from the participant in the pre-adjudication
30	probation program, shall order sealing and dismissal of a case if:
31	(1) The participant in the pre-adjudication probation program
32	has successfully completed a pre-adjudication probation program, as
33	determined by the pre-adjudication probation program judge;
34	(2) The pre-adjudication probation program judge has received a
35	recommendation from the prosecuting attorney for sealing and dismissal of the
36	case; and



1	(3) The pre-adjudication probation program judge, after
2	considering the past criminal history of the participant in the pre-
3	adjudication probation program, determines that sealing and dismissal of the
4	case is appropriate.
5	(b) Unless otherwise ordered by the pre-adjudication probation program
6	court, sealing under this section shall be as described in the Comprehensive
7	Criminal Record Sealing Act of 2013, § 16-90-1401 et seq.
8	
9	SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 10-3-2901(b)(4), concerning the members of
10	the Specialty Court Program Advisory Committee, is amended to read as
11	follows:
12	(4) Three (3) district court judges who preside over a specialty
13	court program as defined under § 16-10-139(a) to be appointed by the Arkansas
14	District Judges <u>Judicial</u> Council, Inc.;
15	
16	SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 16-10-139 is amended to read as follows:
17	16-10-139. Specialty court program evaluation and approval $-$ Transfer $-$
18	Definition.
19	(a) As used in this section, "specialty court program" means one (1)
20	of the following:
21	(1) A pre-adjudication probation program under § 5-4-901 et
22	seq.;
23	(2) An approved <u>A</u> drug court program under the Arkansas Drug
24	Court Act, § 16-98-301 et seq.;
25	(3) The <u>A</u> Swift and Certain Accountability on Probation Pilot
26	Program under § 16-93-1701 et seq.; and
27	(4) Any other specialty court program that has been approved by
28	the Supreme Court, including without limitation specialty court programs
29	known as:
30	(A) A DWI/BWI specialty court program;
31	(B)(5) A mental health specialty court program;
32	<pre>(C)(6) A veterans treatment specialty court program;</pre>
33	(D)(7) A juvenile drug court;
34	(E)(8) A "HOPE" court; and
35	(F)(9) A domestic violence specialty court program family
36	<u>treatment court program under § 9-27-801 et seq.</u>

(b) A specialty court program operated by a circuit court or district
 court must be approved by the Supreme Court in the <u>court's</u> administrative
 plan submitted under Supreme Court Administrative Order Nos. 14 and 18.

4 (c)(1) The Specialty Court Program Advisory Committee shall evaluate
5 and make findings with respect to all specialty court programs operated by a
6 circuit court or district court in this state and refer the findings to the
7 Supreme Court.

8 (2) An evaluation under this section shall reflect nationally
9 recognized and peer-reviewed standards for each particular type of specialty
10 court program.

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(3) The Specialty Court Program Advisory Committee shall also:

(A) Establish, implement, and operate a uniform specialty
court program evaluation process to ensure specialty court program resources
are uniformly directed to high-risk, high-need offenders and that specialty
court programs provide effective and proven practices that reduce recidivism,
as well as other factors such as substance dependency, among participants;

17 (B) Establish an evaluation process that ensures that any
18 new and existing specialty court program that is a drug court program meets
19 standards for drug court program operation under § 16-98-302(b) promulgated
20 by the Specialty Court Program Advisory Committee; and

21 (C) Promulgate rules to be approved by the Supreme Court 22 to carry out the evaluation process under this section.

23 (d) A specialty court program shall be evaluated under the following 24 schedule:

25 (1) A specialty court program established on or after April 1,
26 2015, shall be evaluated after its second year of funded operation;

(2) A specialty court program in existence on April 1, 2015,
shall be evaluated under the requirements of this section prior to expending
resources budgeted for fiscal year 2017; and

30 (3) A specialty court program shall be reevaluated every two (2)
31 years after the initial evaluation.

32 (e)(1)(A) On motion of a specialty court program participant, a 33 specialty court judge who presides over a specialty court program may by 34 written order transfer responsibility for supervision and specialty court 35 program enforcement of the specialty court program participant's case to

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another specialty court judge with the consent of the other specialty court

1	judge.
2	(B) The specialty court program participant shall comply
3	with the policies and procedures for the specialty court program to which the
4	specialty court program participant's case is transferred.
5	(C) The specialty court judge to whom the specialty court
6	program participant's case is transferred may impose sanctions on the
7	specialty court program participant, including without limitation the
8	imposition of a period of incarceration and the requirement of inpatient
9	treatment under the written policies and procedures for the specialty court
10	program to which the specialty court program participant's case has been
11	transferred.
12	(2)(A) If the specialty court judge to whom the specialty court
13	program participant's case has been transferred determines that the specialty
14	court program participant has successfully completed the specialty court
15	program, the specialty court judge shall notify the transferring specialty
16	court judge and request that the appropriate orders be entered in the
17	specialty court program participant's case.
18	(B)(i) If after a specialty court program participant's
19	ease is transferred, the specialty court team recommends that the specialty
20	court program participant be removed from the specialty court program, the
21	specialty court judge shall enter an order returning the specialty court
22	program participant's case to the transferring specialty court program.
23	(ii) Upon return of the specialty court program
24	participant's case to the transferring specialty court program, the specialty
25	court judge shall determine an appropriate disposition of the matter.
26	(f)(l)(A) If a specialty court program participant's case is
27	transferred from a district court, all assessed fines, penalties, court
28	costs, and fees other than those described under subdivision (f)(2) of this
29	section shall be paid to the transferring district court, notwithstanding the
30	provisions of § 16-10-141.
31	(B) The funds described under subdivision (f)(1)(A) of
32	this section shall be disbursed as required under § 16-17-707.
33	(2) In accordance with § 16-10-141(b)(2)-(7), the district court
34	to which the case is transferred may assess and collect:
35	(A) Treatment costs;
36	(B) Drug testing costs;

1	(C) A local specialty court program user fee;
2	(D) Necessary supervision fees, including any applicable
3	residential treatment fees;
4	(E) Global Positioning System monitoring costs; and
5	(F) Continuous alcohol monitoring fees.
6	(g)(l) If a specialty court program participant's case is transferred
7	from a circuit court, all assessed fines, penalties, court costs, and fees
8	other than those under subdivision (g)(2) of this section shall be paid to
9	the transferring circuit court, notwithstanding the provisions of § 16-98-
10	304.
11	(2) In accordance with §§ 5-4-907, 16-10-701, 16-98-304, 16-100-
12	209, and 16-101-104, the circuit court to which the specialty court program
13	participant's case is transferred may assess and collect:
14	(A) Treatment costs;
15	(B) Drug testing costs;
16	(C) A local specialty court program user fee;
17	(D) Necessary supervision fees, including any applicable
18	residential treatment fees;
19	(E) A fee determined or authorized under § 12-27-
20	125(b)(17)(B) or § 16-93-104(a)(1) that is to be paid to the Division of
21	Community Correction;
22	(F) Global Positioning System monitoring costs;
23	(G) Continuous alcohol monitoring fees;
24	(H) Tuition and other educational fees for a vocational
25	school, technical school, community college, or two-year or four-year public
26	university that is part of the pre-adjudication probation program in which
27	the specialty court program participant is participating; and
28	(I) A specialty court program public defender user fee.
29	
30	SECTION 4. Arkansas Code §§ $16-10-143$ and $16-10-144$ are amended to
31	read as follows:
32	16-10-143. Contracts — Qualified attorneys — Definition <u>Specialty court</u>
33	<u>counsel</u> .
34	(a) As used in this section, "qualified attorney" means an attorney
35	who:
36	(1) Has previously been employed as an attorney by the state

1 regardless of the limitation provided under § 19-11-709(d); or

2 (2) Is currently serving as a part-time public defender or is
3 otherwise employed by the state as an attorney on a part-time basis.

4 (b) The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts may employ 5 or enter into a professional service contract with a qualified <u>an</u> attorney to 6 serve as a specialty court team member and to represent specialty court 7 participants.

8 (c)(b) The fees for contracted services provided by a qualified an 9 attorney under subsection (a) of this section shall be paid from funds 10 appropriated for that purpose to the Administrative Office of the Courts.

11 (c)(1) The Administrative Office of the Courts may contract with or 12 employ an attorney who has previously been employed by the state regardless 13 of the limitation otherwise provided under § 19-11-709(d).

14 (2) The Administrative Office of the Courts may also contract
15 with or employ an attorney who currently serves as part-time public defender
16 or is otherwise employed by the state as an attorney on a part-time basis.

17 (d)(1) <u>A qualified attorney An attorney</u> who is employed or contracted 18 by the Administrative Office of the Courts under this section is eligible for 19 additional compensation.

20 (2) Additional compensation received for service under this
21 section as a specialty court team member or to represent specialty court
22 participants shall not be construed as exceeding the line-item maximum for
23 the grade of the qualified attorney's other part-time position, if any.

(e) Any funds appropriated for the purpose of this section remaining
on June 30 shall be retained by the Administrative Office of the Courts and
may be distributed after July 1 as supplemental funding to be used for the
expansion or establishment of specialty court programs in circuit courts
support and administration of specialty court programs and for restorative
and rehabilitative services to specialty court participants.

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16-10-144. Contracts - Qualified treatment providers.

32 (a) The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts may enter 33 into a professional service contract with a qualified treatment provider to 34 serve as a specialty court team member and <u>or</u> to provide behavioral health 35 treatment to specialty court participants.

36

(b) The fees for contracted services provided by a qualified treatment

2 Administrative Office of the Courts. (c) Any funds appropriated for the purpose of this section remaining 3 4 on June 30 shall be retained by the Administrative Office of the Courts and 5 may be distributed after July 1 as supplemental funding for the expansion or 6 establishment of specialty court programs in circuit courts support and 7 administration of specialty court programs and for restorative and 8 rehabilitative services to specialty court participants. 9 10 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 16-10-701 is amended to read as follows: 16-10-701. Additional fees for specialty court programs - Definitions. 11 12 (a) As used in this section: (1) "Pre-adjudication" means the period of time after: 13 14 The prosecuting attorney files a criminal information (A) 15 or an indictment is filed in circuit court; 16 (B) The person named in the criminal information or 17 indictment is arraigned on the charge in circuit court; and (C) The person enters a specialty court program without a 18 19 guilty plea or the person enters a plea of guilty but before the circuit 20 court enters a judgment and pronounces by entering a plea of guilty but the 21 circuit court does not enter a judgment and pronounce a sentence against the 22 person; and 23 (2) "Specialty court program" means: 24 A pre-adjudication probation program under § 5-4-901 (A) 25 et seq.; 26 (B) An approved <u>A</u> drug court program under the Arkansas 27 Drug Court Act, § 16-98-301 et seq.; 28 (C) A Swift and Certain Accountability on Probation Pilot 29 Program under § 16-93-1701 et seq.; and 30 (D) Any other specialty court program that has been approved by the Supreme Court, including without limitation specialty court 31 32 programs known as: 33 (i) A DWI court; 34 (ii) A mental health court; 35 (iii) A veteran's court; 36 (iv) A juvenile drug court;

provider shall be paid from funds appropriated for that purpose to the

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1	(v) A "HOPE" court;
2	(vi) A "smarter sentencing" court; and
3	(vii) A mental health crisis intervention center. A
4	DWI/BWI specialty court program under § 16-102-101 et seq.;
5	(E) A mental health specialty court program under § 16-
6	<u>100-201 et seq.;</u>
7	(F) A veterans treatment specialty court program under §
8	<u>16-101-101 et seq.;</u>
9	(G) A juvenile drug court under § 16-98-303; and
10	(H) A family treatment specialty court program under § 9-
11	<u>27-801.</u>
12	(b) In addition to any other court cost or court fee provided by law:
13	(1) A specialty court program user fee of up to two hundred
14	fifty dollars (\$250) shall be assessed on any participant in a specialty
15	court program and remitted to the Administration of Justice Funds Section by
16	the court clerk for deposit into the State Treasury as special revenues
17	credited to the Specialty Court Program Fund; and
18	(2) A specialty court program public defender user fee not to
19	exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) may be assessed by the court for a
20	defendant who participates in a specialty court program designed for pre <u>-</u>
21	adjudication purposes and who is appointed representation by a public
22	defender and remitted to the Administration of Justice Funds Section by the
23	court clerk for deposit into the State Treasury to the credit of the Public
24	Defender User Fees Fund within the State Central Services Fund.
25	(c) A district court or circuit court may not assess and collect a fee
26	under this section if the district court or circuit court is operating a
27	specialty court program that has not been previously approved by or no longer
28	meets the approval criteria of the Supreme Court.
29	
30	SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 16-90-1403(b), concerning the scope of the
31	comprehensive criminal record sealing act, is amended to read as follows:
32	(b) Inconsistencies between this subchapter and any other sections
33	within the Arkansas Code in existence January 1, 2014, are resolved in favor
34	of this subchapter, except that this subchapter does not apply to:
35	(1) The Arkansas Drug Court Act, § 16-98-301 et seq.;
36	(2) Extended juvenile jurisdiction records under § 9-27-508,

1	unless the records are considered adult criminal records under § 9-27-501 et
2	seq.; and
3	(3)(2) The sealing of juvenile records.
4	
5	SECTION 7. Arkansas Code Title 16, Chapter 90, is amended to add an
6	additional subchapter to read as follows:
7	<u>Subchapter 16 — Specialty Court Programs</u>
8	
9	16-90-1601. Definition.
10	As used in this subchapter, "specialty court program" means:
11	(1) A pre-adjudication probation program under § 5-4-901 et
12	seq.;
13	(2) A drug court program under the Arkansas Drug Court Act, §
14	<u>16-98-301 et seq.;</u>
15	(3) A Swift and Certain Accountability on Probation Pilot
16	Program under § 16-93-1701 et seq.;
17	(4) A DWI/BWI specialty court program under § 16-102-101 et
18	seq.;
19	(5) A mental health specialty court program under § 16-100-201
20	<u>et seq.;</u>
21	(6) A veterans treatment specialty court program under § 16-101-
22	<u>101 et seq.;</u>
23	(7) A juvenile drug court under § 16-98-303; and
24	(8) A family treatment specialty court program under § 9-27-801.
25	
26	16-90-1602. Dismissal of case and record sealing by specialty court
27	judge.
28	(a) Upon a participant's successful completion of a specialty court
29	program, a specialty court program judge may order dismissal of a case and
30	sealing of a record if:
31	(1) The specialty court program judge has received a
32	recommendation from the prosecuting attorney for dismissal of the case and
33	the sealing of the record; and
34	(2) The specialty court program judge, after considering the
35	offender's past criminal history, determines that dismissal of the case and
36	the sealing of the record are appropriate.

1	(b) Sealing under this subsection shall follow the procedures in the
2	Comprehensive Criminal Record Sealing Act of 2013, § 16-90-1401 et seq.,
3	except that:
4	(1) A specialty court program judge may enter an order to seal a
5	participant's case immediately upon completion of the specialty court
6	program; and
7	(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of § 16-90-1406(c)(1), there
8	shall be no limit to the number of previous felony convictions a petitioner
9	may have.
10	(c) A specialty court program judge shall not dismiss an offense of
11	driving or boating while intoxicated and shall not order sealing until the
12	applicable lookback periods under § 5-65-111 have elapsed.
13	(d) A judge presiding over a specialty court program established in
14	circuit court may seal a conviction entered by a circuit court and a judge
15	presiding over a specialty court program established in district court may
16	seal a conviction entered by a district court if the following conditions are
17	met:
18	(1) The participant has successfully completed the specialty
19	court program;
20	(2) The participant has successfully completed the sentence
21	entered by the other court; and
22	(3) The other court agreed that sealing is appropriate and has
23	signed the uniform sealing order provided by the Arkansas Crime Information
24	<u>Center.</u>
25	
26	16-90-1603. Transfer of specialty court program supervision.
27	(a)(l) A specialty court program judge may authorize a participant to
28	complete a specialty court program in another county with the consent of the
29	receiving judge.
30	(2) A written order reflecting the authorization shall be signed
31	by both judges.
32	(3) The participant's case in the originating county shall
33	remain open until the originating court enters an appropriate order that:
34	(A) The court has received notification from the receiving
35	county that the participant has successfully completed the specialty court
36	program; or

1	(B) The participant did not successfully complete the
2	specialty court program or was otherwise terminated from the specialty court
3	program and subsequently sentenced.
4	(4) To ensure that multiple criminal cases are not opened for
5	the same charge, no new criminal case shall be created by the receiving
6	ccounty.
7	(5) A specialty court program established in a circuit court may
8	only utilize this section to authorize supervision of a program participant
9	by another program established in a circuit court, and a DWI/BWI specialty
10	court program may only authorize supervision of a program participant by
11	another DWI/BWI specialty court program.
12	(b)(1) A participant shall comply with the policies and procedures of
13	the receiving specialty court program.
14	(2) The receiving court shall be responsible for ensuring the
15	participant's adherence to the specialty court program's policies and
16	procedures, shall have the authority to order treatment, and shall have the
17	authority to impose sanctions, including a period of incarceration.
18	(3)(A) If the receiving specialty court program judge determines
19	that the participant has successfully completed the program, the receiving
20	specialty court program judge shall notify the originating specialty court
21	program judge and request that the appropriate orders be entered in the
22	participant's case.
23	(B)(i) If the receiving specialty court program judge
24	decides that the participant should be removed from the specialty court
25	program, the receiving specialty court program judge shall enter an order
26	returning the participant's supervision to the originating specialty court
27	program.
28	(ii) Upon return of the participant's supervision to
29	the originating specialty court program, the specialty court program judge
30	shall determine an appropriate disposition of the matter.
31	(c)(l) All assessed fines, fees, and court costs on the underlying
32	offenses shall be collected by the originating specialty court program.
33	(2) All specialty court program-related fees and costs shall be
34	assessed and collected by the receiving specialty court program.
35	
36	SECTION 8. Arkansas Code §§ 16-98-302 — 16-98-306 are amended to read

1	as follows:
2	16-98-302. Purpose and intent.
3	(a) There is a critical need for judicial intervention and support for
4	effective treatment programs that reduce the incidence of drug use, drug
5	addiction, and family separation due to parental substance abuse and drug-
6	related crimes. It is the intent of the General Assembly for this subchapter
7	to enhance public safety by facilitating the creation, expansion, and
8	coordination of drug court programs.
9	(b) The goals of the drug court programs in this state shall be
10	consistent with the standards adopted by the United States Department of
11	Justice and recommended by the National Association of Drug Court
12	Professionals and shall include the following key components: national
13	standards.
14	(1) Integration of substance abuse treatment with justice system
15	case processing;
16	(2) Use of a nonadversarial approach in which prosecution and
17	defense promote public safety while protecting the right of the accused to
18	due process;
19	(3) Early identification, with the use of a validated risk-needs
20	assessement, of eligible moderate-to-high-risk participants and prompt
21	placement of eligible participants;
22	(4) Access to a continuum of treatment, rehabilitation, and
23	related services;
24	(5) Frequent testing for alcohol and illicit drugs;
25	(6) A coordinated strategy among the judge, prosecution,
26	defense, and treatment providers to govern offender compliance;
27	(7) Ongoing judicial interaction with each participant;
28	(8) Monitoring and evaluation of the achievement of program
29	goals and effectiveness;
30	(9) Continuing interdisciplinary education to promote effective
31	planning, implementation, and operation; and
32	(10) Development of partnerships with public agencies and
33	community-based organizations to generate local support and enhance drug
34	court effectiveness.
35	(c)(l) Drug court programs are specialized court dockets within the
36	existing structure of the Arkansas court system. Drug court programs offer

judicial monitoring of intensive treatment and strict supervision of addicts
 in drug and drug-related cases.

3 (2) The creation of a drug court <u>program</u> docket and the 4 appointment of a circuit judge to that docket shall be approved by the 5 administrative judge in each judicial circuit and made a part of the judicial 6 circuit's administrative plan required by Supreme Court Administrative Order 7 Number 14.

8 (d) Drug court program success shall be determined by the rate of
9 recidivism of all drug court participants, including participants who do not
10 graduate.

11

12

16-98-303. Drug court programs authorized.

(a)(1) Each judicial district circuit of this state is authorized to
 establish a drug court program programs under this subchapter.

15 (2) A drug court established under this subchapter shall be
approved under § 16-10-139.

17 (3)(A) A drug court program may be pre_adjudication or post18 adjudication for an adult offender or a juvenile offender.

19 (B) A juvenile drug court program or services may be used
20 in a delinquency case or a family in need of services case.

21 (C) A juvenile drug court program or services may be used 22 in a dependency-neglect case under § 9-27-334.

23 (4)(3) Notwithstanding the authorization described in
24 subdivision (a)(1) of this section, a judge of a circuit court, drug court,
25 or juvenile division of circuit court may not order any services or treatment
26 under subsection (b) of this section or § 16-98-305 unless:

27 (A) An administrative and programmatic appropriation has28 been made for those purposes;

(B) Administrative and programmatic funding is availablefor those purposes; and

31 (C) Administrative and programmatic positions have been 32 authorized for those purposes.

33 (5)(4) As determined by the Division of Community Correction, an
 34 adult drug court program established under this section shall target high 35 risk offenders and medium-risk offenders.

36

(b)(1) A drug court program shall incorporate services from the

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1 Division of Community Correction, the Department of Human Services, and the 2 Administrative Office of the Courts. 3 (2) Subject to an appropriation, funding, and position 4 authorization, both programmatic and administrative, and subject to the 5 requirements of eligibility as defined in § 16-93-1202, the Division of 6 Community Correction: 7 (A) Shall: 8 (i) Establish standards regarding the classification 9 of a drug court program participant as a high-risk offender or medium-risk 10 offender; 11 (ii) Provide positions for persons to serve as 12 probation officers, drug counselors, and administrative assistants; 13 (iii) Provide for drug testing for drug court program 14 participants; 15 (iv) Provide for intensive outpatient treatment for 16 drug court program participants; 17 (v) Provide for intensive short-term and long-term 18 residential treatment for drug court program participants; and 19 (vi) Develop clinical assessment capacity, including 20 drug testing, to identify a drug court program participant with a substance 21 addiction and develop a treatment protocol that improves the drug court 22 program participant's likelihood of success; and 23 (B) May: 24 (i) Provide for continuous alcohol monitoring for 25 drug court program participants, including a minimum period of one hundred 26 twenty (120) days; and 27 (ii) Develop clinical assessment capacity, including 28 continuous alcohol monitoring, to identify a drug court program participant 29 with a substance addiction and develop a treatment protocol that improves the 30 drug court program participant's likelihood of success. 31 Subject to an appropriation, funding, and position (3) 32 authorization, both programmatic and administrative, the department shall: 33 (A) Provide positions for persons to serve as drug 34 counselors and administrative assistants in delinquency cases, dependency-35 neglect cases, and family in need of services cases; 36 (B) Provide for drug testing for drug court program

1 participants in delinquency cases, dependency neglect cases, and family in 2 need of services cases: 3 (C) Provide for intensive outpatient treatment for drug 4 court program participants in delinquency cases, dependency neglect cases, 5 and family in need of services cases; 6 (D) Provide for intensive short-term and long-term 7 residential treatment for drug court program participants in delinquency 8 cases, dependency neglect cases, and family in need of services cases; 9 (E) Certify and license treatment providers and treatment 10 facilities that serve drug court program participants; 11 (F) Provide and oversee residential beds for drug court 12 programs; 13 (G) Oversee catchment area facilities for drug court 14 programs; 15 (H) Act as a liaison between the courts and drug court 16 program participants; and 17 (I) Oversee performance standards for residential and long-term facilities providing services to drug court programs. 18 19 (4) Subject to an appropriation, funding, and position 20 authorization, both programmatic and administrative, the Administrative 21 Office of the Courts shall: 22 (A) Provide state-level coordination and support for drug 23 court judges and their programs; 24 Administer funds for the maintenance and operation of (B) 25 local approved drug court programs; 26 (C) Provide training and education to drug court judges 27 and other professionals involved in drug court programs; 28 (D) Operate as a liaison between drug court judges and 29 other state-level agencies providing services to drug court programs; and 30 (E) Develop criteria for determining new drug court 31 locations that take into account: 32 (i) The current size of the defendant population 33 that meets the criteria for drug court participation; 34 (ii) Recent trends indicating an increasing defendant 35 population that meets the criteria for drug court participation; 36 (iii) Existing drug treatment programs currently in

1 place and operating through the courts, the county jail, or the Division of 2 Correction: and 3 (iv) The drug court program's use of evidence-based 4 practices by key partners involved in the prospective drug court program 5 including those to assess the needs of drug court participants in order to 6 effectively target programming toward high-risk participants. 7 (c)(1) A drug court program shall not be available to any defendant 8 who: 9 (A) Has a pending charge for a violent felony against him 10 or her; 11 (B) Has been convicted of a violent felony offense as 12 defined in this subchapter or adjudicated delinquent as a juvenile of a 13 violent felony offense; or 14 (C)(i) Is required to register under the Sex Offender 15 Registration Act of 1997, § 12-12-901 et seq. 16 (ii) The exclusion under subdivision (c)(l)(C)(i) of 17 this section shall not apply to the offense of prostitution, § 5-70-102. 18 (2) Eligible offenses may be further restricted by the rules of 19 a specific drug court program. 20 (3) Nothing in this subchapter shall require a drug court program judge to consider or accept every offender with a treatable condition 21 22 or addiction, regardless of the fact that the controlling offense is eligible 23 for consideration in the drug court program. 24 (4) Any defendant who is denied entry to a drug court program 25 shall be prosecuted as provided by law. 26 (d)(1) Drug court programs may require a separate judicial processing 27 system differing in practice and design from the traditional adversarial 28 criminal prosecution and trial systems. 29 (2) A drug court team shall be designated by a circuit judge 30 assigned to manage the drug court program docket and may include a circuit 31 judge, a prosecuting attorney, a public defender or private defense attorney, 32 one (1) or more addiction counselors, one (1) or more probation officers, one 33 (1) or more private treatment provider representatives, and any other 34 individual or individuals determined necessary by the drug court program 35 judge. 36 (3)(A) The administrative judge of the judicial district shall

1 designate one (1) or more circuit judges to administer the drug court 2 program. 3 (B) If a county is in a judicial district circuit that 4 does not have a circuit judge who is able to administer the drug court 5 program on a consistent basis, the administrative plan for the judicial 6 circuit required by Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 14 may designate a 7 district court judge to administer the drug court program. 8 (e) Each judicial district may circuit shall develop a training and 9 implementation policies and procedures manual for drug court programs with the assistance of the: 10 11 (1) Department; 12 (2) Division of Elementary and Secondary Education; 13 (3) Adult Education Section; 14 (4) Division of Community Correction; and (5) Administrative Office of the Courts. 15 16 (f) A Division of Drug Court Specialty Court Programs is created 17 within the Administrative Office of the Courts. The position of Drug Court 18 Specialty Court Coordinator is created within the Division of Drug Court 19 Specialty Court Programs, and the Drug Court Specialty Court Coordinator 20 shall: 21 (1) Provide assistance, counsel, and advice to the Specialty 22 Court Program Advisory Committee; 23 (2) Serve as a coordinator between drug court judges, the 24 Division of Community Correction, the Division of Aging, Adult, and 25 Behavioral Health Services of the Department of Human Services, private 26 treatment provider representatives, and public health advocates; 27 (3) Establish, manage, and maintain a uniform statewide drug 28 court information system to track information and data on drug court program 29 participants to be reviewed by the Specialty Court Program Advisory 30 Committee; 31 (4) Train and educate drug court program judges and drug court 32 program staff in those judicial districts circuits maintaining a drug court program; and 33 34 (5) Provide staff assistance to the Arkansas Drug Court 35 Professionals Association; 36 (6) Oversee the disbursement of funds appropriated to the

1	Administrative Office of the Courts for the maintenance and operation of
2	local approved drug court programs based on a formula developed by the
3	Administrative Office of the Courts and reviewed by the Specialty Court
4	Program Advisory Committee; and
5	(7) Develop guidelines to be reviewed by the Specialty Court
6	Program Advisory Committee to serve as a framework for developing effective
7	local drug court programs and to provide a structure for conducting research
8	and evaluation for drug court program accountability.
9	(g)(l) A drug court program judge, on his or her own motion or upon a
10	request from an offender, may order dismissal of a case and the sealing of
11	the record if:
12	(A) The offender has successfully completed a drug court
13	program, as determined by the drug court program judge;
14	(B) The offender has received aftercare programming;
15	(C) The drug court program judge has received a
16	recommendation from the prosecuting attorney for dismissal of the case and
17	the sealing of the record; and
18	(D) The drug court program judge, after considering the
19	offender's past criminal history, determines that dismissal of the case and
20	the sealing of the record are appropriate.
21	(2)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (g)(2)(B) of this
22	section, if the offender has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or has been
23	found guilty of an offense falling within a target group under § 16-93-
24	1202(10)(A)(i) in another Arkansas court, the drug court program judge may
25	order sealing and dismissal of the offense falling within a target group with
26	the written concurrence of the other Arkansas court.
27	(B) The following offenses are not eligible for sealing
28	under subdivision (g)(2)(A) of this section:
29	(i) Residential burglary, § 5-39-201(a);
30	(ii) Commercial burglary, § 5-39-201(b);
31	(iii) Breaking or entering, § 5-39-202; and
32	(iv) The fourth and subsequent offense of driving
33	while intoxicated, § 5-65-103.
34	(3) Unless otherwise ordered by the drug court program judge,
35	sealing under this subsection shall be as described in the Comprehensive
36	Criminal Record Sealing Act of 2013, § 16-90-1401 et seq.

1 2 16-98-304. Cost and fees. 3 (a) The adult or juvenile drug court program judge may order the offender to pay: 4 5 (1) Court costs as provided in § 16-10-305; 6 (2) Treatment costs; 7 (3) Drug testing costs; 8 (4) A local <u>drug court</u> program user fee; 9 (5) Necessary supervision fees, including any applicable 10 residential treatment fees; (6) Any fees determined or authorized under § 12-27-11 12 125(b)(17)(B) or § 16-93-104(a)(1) that are to be paid to the Department 13 Division of Community Correction; 14 (7) Global Positioning System monitoring; and 15 (8) Continuous alcohol monitoring fees. 16 (b)(1) The drug court program judge shall establish a schedule for the 17 payment of costs and fees. 18 (2) The cost for treatment, drug testing, continuous alcohol 19 monitoring if ordered, and supervision shall be set by the treatment and 20 supervision providers respectively and made part of the order of the drug 21 court program judge for payment. 22 (3) Program Drug court program user fees shall be set by the 23 drug court program judge. 24 (4) Treatment, drug testing, continuous alcohol monitoring if ordered, and supervision costs or fees shall be paid to the respective 25 26 providers. 27 (5) Fees determined or authorized under § 12-27-125(b)(17)(B) or 28 § 16-93-104(a)(1) shall be paid to the Department Division of Community 29 Correction. 30 (6)(A) All court costs and program user fees assessed by the 31 drug court judge shall be paid to the court clerk designated collector for 32 remittance to the county treasury under § 14-14-1313. 33 (B) All installment payments shall initially be deemed to be collection of court costs under § 16-10-305 until the court costs have 34 35 been collected in full with any remaining payments representing collections 36 of other fees and costs as authorized in this section and shall be credited

1 to the county administration of justice fund and distributed under § 16-10-2 307. 3 (C) Local program user fees shall be credited to a fund 4 known as the "drug court program fund" and appropriated by the quorum court 5 for the benefit and administration of the drug court program. 6 (7) Court orders for costs and fees shall remain an obligation 7 of the offender with court monitoring until fully paid. 8 (c) A circuit court may not assess and collect a fee if the circuit 9 court is operating a specialty court program that has not previously been 10 approved or no longer meets the approval criteria of the Supreme Court. 11 12 16-98-305. Required resources. 13 Each approved drug court program established under this subchapter, subject to an appropriation, funding, and position authorization, both 14 15 programmatic and administrative, shall be provided with the following 16 resources: 17 The Department Division of Community Correction shall (1) 18 provide the following pursuant to § 16-98-303(b)(2) for adult offenders: 19 (A)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (1)(A)(ii) of 20 this section, provide a A minimum of one (1) drug counselor position for every thirty (30) drug court program participants+; 21 22 (ii) If a drug court judge does not require the drug 23 counselor position or positions described in subdivision $(1)(\Lambda)(i)$ of this section, funding for a drug counselor or counselors shall be provided under 24 25 subdivision (1)(E)(i) of this section; 26 (B) Provide a <u>A</u> minimum of one (1) probation officer 27 position for every forty (40) drug court participants; 28 (C) Provide a A minimum of one (1) administrative 29 assistant position for each drug court program; and 30 (D) Provide for drug Drug screens and testing as needed; 31 and 32 (E)(i) Based upon a formula to be developed by the Administrative Office of the Courts, reviewed by the Specialty Court Program 33 Advisory Committee, and approved by the Legislative Council, provide for: 34 35 (a) Intensive outpatient treatment to be made 36 available to the drug court program in each judicial district;

1	(b) Short-term and long-term inpatient
2	treatment to be made available to the drug court program in each judicial
3	district; and
4	(c) A drug court judge to contract with a
5	local licensed treatment provider for counseling services for drug court
6	participants so that each privately contracted addiction counselor does not
7	have more than thirty (30) drug court participants in his or her caseload.
8	(ii) The Department of Community Correction shall
9	enter into an interagency memorandum of understanding with the Administrative
10	Office of the Courts in order to establish the process and procedures for the
11	payment of treatment services ordered by a drug court judge and funded
12	through the Department of Community Correction.
13	(iii) Expenditures of funds for treatment services
14	allocated to each approved drug court program under the formula described in
15	subdivision (1)(E)(i) of this section shall be at the direction of a drug
16	court judge, except as limited by the procedures adopted in the memorandum of
17	understanding described in subdivision (1)(E)(ii) of this section;
18	(2) The Department of Human Services shall:
19	(A) Provide a minimum of one (1) drug counselor position
20	for every thirty (30) drug court program participants in delinquency cases,
21	dependency-neglect cases, and family in need of services cases;
22	(B) Provide for drug screens and testing as needed in
23	delinquency cases, dependency-neglect cases, and family in need of services
24	cases; and
25	(C) Provide for intensive outpatient treatment and short-
26	term and long-term inpatient treatment to be made available to the drug court
27	program in each judicial district in delinquency cases , dependency-neglect
28	cases, and family in need of services cases based upon a formula developed by
29	the Administrative Office of the Courts and reviewed by the Specialty Court
30	Program Advisory Committee; and
31	(3) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall:
32	(A) Provide funding to be reviewed by the Specialty Court
33	Program Advisory Committee for additional ongoing maintenance and operation
34	costs of a local approved drug court program not provided by the Department
35	of Community Correction or the Department of Human Services, including local
36	drug court program supplies, education, travel, and related expenses;

1 (B) Provide direct support to the drug court program judge 2 and drug court program; 3 (C)(B) Provide coordination between the multidisciplinary 4 team and the drug court judge; 5 (D)(C) Provide case management; 6 (E) Monitor compliance of drug court participants with 7 drug court program requirements; and 8 (F)(D) Provide assistance and support to the Specialty 9 Court Program Advisory Committee for the evaluation of adult and juvenile 10 specialty court programs. 11 12 16-98-306. Collection of data. 13 (a)(1) An approved drug court program shall collect and provide 14 monthly data on drug court program applicants and all participants as 15 required by the Specialty Court Program Advisory Committee in accordance with 16 the rules promulgated under § 10-3-2901. 17 (2) The data shall may include: 18 (A) The total number of applicants; 19 (B) The total number of participants; 20 The total number of successful applicants; (C) 21 The total number of successful participants; (D) 22 (E) The total number of unsuccessful participants and the 23 reason why each unsuccessful participant did not complete the drug court 24 program; 25 Information about what happened to each unsuccessful (F) 26 participant; 27 (G) The total number of participants who were arrested for 28 a new criminal offense while in the drug court program; 29 (H)(G) The total number of participants who were convicted 30 of a new criminal offense while in the drug court program; 31 (I)(H) The total number of participants who committed a 32 violation of one (1) or more conditions of the drug court program and the 33 resulting sanction; 34 (J) (I) The results of the initial risk-needs assessment or 35 other appropriate clinical assessment conducted on each participant; 36 (K)(J) The total amount of time each drug court program

l participant was in the drug court program; and

2 (L)(K) Any other data or information as required by the
3 Specialty Court Program Advisory Committee in accordance with the rules
4 promulgated under § 10-3-2901.

5 (b) The data collected for evaluation purposes under subsection (a) of 6 this section shall:

7 (1) Include a minimum standard data set developed and specified
8 by the Specialty Court Program Advisory Committee; and

9 (2) Be maintained in the court files or be otherwise accessible 10 by the courts and the Specialty Court Program Advisory Committee Each court 11 operating a specialty court program shall utilize the case management system 12 provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts to maintain data on

13 <u>applicants and program participants</u>.

14 (c)(1) As directed by the Specialty Court Program Advisory Committee, 15 after an individual is discharged either upon completion or termination of a 16 drug court program, the drug court program shall conduct, as much as 17 practical, follow-up contacts with and reviews of former drug court <u>program</u> 18 participants for key outcome indicators of drug use, recidivism, and 19 employment.

20 (2)(A) The follow-up contacts with and reviews of former drug 21 court program participants shall be conducted as frequently and for a period 22 of time as determined by the Specialty Court Program Advisory Committee based 23 upon the nature of the drug court program and the nature of the participants.

(B) The follow-up contacts with and reviews of former drug
court participants are not extensions of the drug court's jurisdiction over
the drug court participants.

(d) For purposes of standardized measurement of success of drug court programs across the state, the Specialty Court Program Advisory Committee shall may adopt an operational definition of terms such as "recidivism", "retention", "relapses", "restarts", "sanctions imposed", and "incentives given" to be used in any evaluation and report of drug court programs.

(e) Each <u>drug specialty</u> court program shall provide to the Specialty
 Court Program Advisory Committee <u>and the Administrative Office of the Courts</u>
 <u>Specialty Court Division</u> all information requested by the Specialty Court
 Program Advisory Committee.

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(f) The Division of Drug Court Programs Administrative Office of the

1 <u>Courts</u>, the Division of Community Correction, the Division of Aging, Adult, 2 and Behavioral Health Services of the Department of Human Services, and the 3 Arkansas Crime Information Center shall work together to share and make 4 available data to provide a comprehensive data management system for the 5 state's drug court programs.

6 (g) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall collect monthly data 7 reports submitted by approved drug <u>courts</u> <u>court programs</u> and provide the 8 monthly data reports to the Specialty Court Program Advisory Committee.

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(h) The Specialty Court Program Advisory Committee shall:

10 (1) Submit a report by July 1 of each year summarizing the data
 11 collected and outcomes achieved by all approved specialty courts; and

12 (2) Contract with a third-party evaluator every five (5) years
 13 to conduct an evaluation on the effectiveness of the specialty court program
 14 in complying with the key components of § 16-98-302(b).

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16 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 16-100-101(2), concerning definitions 17 related to mental health and the judicial system, is amended to read as 18 follows:

(2) "Mental illness" means a condition of a person who has or has had in the past a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder of sufficient duration to meet diagnostic criteria specified by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders as it existed on January 1, 2017, that has resulted in functional impairment that substantially interferes with or limits one (1) or more major life activities; and

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SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 16-100-202(b), concerning the goals of a
 mental health specialty court program, is repealed.

29 (b) Mental health specialty court program success is determined by the 30 rate of recidivism of all mental health specialty court program participants, 31 including mental health specialty court program participants who do not 32 graduate from the mental health specialty court program.

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34 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 16-100-204 is amended to read as follows:
35 16-100-204. Administration of mental health specialty court program.
36 (a) A mental health specialty court program may require a separate

1 judicial processing system differing in practice and design from the 2 traditional adversarial criminal prosecution and trial systems. 3 (b)(1) The administrative judge of the judicial district circuit shall 4 designate one (1) or more circuit judges to be mental health specialty court 5 judges and to administer the mental health specialty court program. 6 (2) If a county is in a judicial district circuit that does not 7 have a circuit judge who is able to administer the mental health specialty 8 court program on a consistent basis, the administrative plan for the judicial 9 circuit required by Supreme Court Administrative Order No. Number 14 may 10 designate a district court judge to be a mental health specialty court judge and to administer the mental health specialty court program. 11 12 (c) A mental health specialty court team shall be designated by a 13 mental health specialty court judge and may include: 14 (1) A circuit judge; 15 (2) A prosecuting attorney; 16 (3) A public defender or private defense attorney; 17 (4) One (1) or more healthcare providers with experience in the 18 field of mental health treatment; 19 (5) One (1) or more probation officers; 20 (6) One (1) or more private mental health treatment provider 21 representatives with experience in the field of mental health treatment; and 22 (7) Any other individual determined necessary by the mental 23 health specialty court judge. Each judicial district may circuit shall develop a training and 24 (d) 25 implementation manual for the mental health specialty court program with the assistance of the: 26 27 (1) Department of Human Services; 28 (2) Department of Health; 29 (3) Division of Community Correction; 30 (4) Administrative Office of the Courts; and 31 (5) Other federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, or 32 entities with an established history of expertise in mental health 33 conditions. 34 SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 16-100-208 is amended to read as follows: 35 16-100-208. Completion of program - Dismissal of case - Sealing of 36

1	record.
2	(a) Upon the mental health specialty court's own motion or upon a
3	request from a mental health specialty court program participant or his or
4	her attorney, a mental health specialty court may order dismissal of the case
5	against the mental health specialty court program participant and the sealing
6	of the record if:
7	(1) The mental health specialty court program participant has
8	successfully completed the mental health specialty court program, as
9	determined by the mental health specialty court;
10	(2) The mental health specialty court program participant has
11	received aftercare programming or a course of continuing mental health
12	treatment if recommended by the mental health specialty court program
13	participant's healthcare provider;
14	(3) The mental health specialty court has received a
15	recommendation from the prosecuting attorney for dismissal of the case and
16	the sealing of the record; and
17	(4) The mental health specialty court, after considering the
18	mental health specialty court program participant's criminal history,
19	determines that dismissal of the case and the sealing of the record are
20	appropriate.
21	(b) Unless otherwise ordered by the mental health specialty court,
22	sealing of the record under this section shall be as described in the
23	Comprehensive Criminal Record Sealing Act of 2013, § 16-90-1401 et seq.
24	(c) If a mental health specialty court program participant has
25	successfully completed the program and has his or her case dismissed under
26	this section § 16-9-1602, he or she may petition the mental health specialty
27	court for relief from disability to restore the mental health specialty court
28	program participant's right to purchase a firearm and to otherwise be removed
29	from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Instant Criminal
30	Background Check System database.
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32	SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 16-101-101 is amended to read as follows:
33	16-101-101. Specialty court authorized — Program authorized —
34	Evaluation — Restriction on services and treatment.
35	(a) A circuit court may establish a veterans treatment specialty court
36	program, subject to approval by the Supreme Court in the administrative plan

1 submitted under Supreme Court Administrative Order No. Number 14. 2 (b) A veterans treatment specialty court is a specialized court within 3 the existing structure of the court system. 4 The goals of the veterans treatment specialty court program shall (c) 5 be consistent with standards adopted by the United States Department of 6 Justice and the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, as they 7 existed on January 1, 2021 national standards. 8 (d) A veterans treatment specialty court program is subject to 9 evaluation by the Specialty Court Program Advisory Committee under § 16-10-10 139. 11 (e)(1) A veterans treatment specialty court may not order any 12 services, including mental health or substance use disorder treatment under 13 this chapter unless: 14 (A) An administrative and programmatic appropriation has 15 been made for the services; 16 (B) Administrative and programmatic funding is available 17 for the services; and 18 (C) Administrative and programmatic positions have been authorized for the services. 19 20 (2) If the requirements of subdivision (e)(1) of this section 21 are not met, a veterans treatment specialty court may still order services if 22 the provider waives payment or if the specialty court participant has private 23 insurance that will pay for the services. 24 25 SECTION 14. Arkansas Code § 16-101-106 is repealed. 26 16-101-106. Completion of program - Dismissal of case - Sealing of 27 record. (a) A veterans treatment specialty court judge, on his or her own 28 29 motion or upon request from a veterans treatment specialty court program participant, may order dismissal of a veterans treatment specialty court 30 31 program participant's case if: 32 (1) The veterans treatment specialty court program participant 33 has successfully completed the veterans treatment specialty court program, as 34 determined by the veterans treatment specialty court judge; 35 (2) The veterans treatment specialty court judge has received a

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recommendation from the prosecuting attorney for dismissal of the veterans

1 treatment specialty court program participant's case and the sealing of the 2 record: and 3 (3) The veterans treatment specialty court judge, after 4 considering the veterans treatment specialty court program participant's past 5 criminal history, determines that the dismissal of the veterans treatment 6 specialty court program participant's case and the sealing of the record are 7 appropriate. 8 (b)(1) Except as provided in subdivision (b)(2) of this section, if 9 the veterans treatment specialty court program participant has pleaded guilty 10 or nolo contendere to or has been found guilty of an offense falling within a target group under § 16-93-1202(10)(A)(i) in another circuit court in this 11 12 state, the veterans treatment specialty court judge may order dismissal of 13 the veterans treatment specialty court program participant's case and the 14 sealing of the record for an offense falling within the target group with the written concurrence of the other circuit court. 15 16 (2) The following offenses are not eligible for sealing under 17 subdivision (b)(l) of this section: 18 (A) Residential burglary, § 5-39-201(a); 19 (B) Commercial burglary, § 5-39-201(b); (C) Breaking or entering, § 5-39-202; and 20 (D) Driving or boating while intoxicated, § 5-65-103. 21 22 (c) Unless otherwise ordered by the veterans treatment specialty court 23 judge, sealing under this subsection shall be as described in the Comprehensive Criminal Record Sealing Act of 2013, § 16-90-1401 et seq. 24 25 26 SECTION 15. Arkansas Code § 16-102-102(d)(1), concerning the 27 jurisdiction of a DWI/BWI specialty court program, is amended to read as 28 follows: 29 (d)(1) The DWI/BWI specialty court shall have jurisdiction of a DWI/BWI specialty court program participant for sixteen (16) months from the date of 30 31 sentencing to complete the DWI/BWI specialty court program in conformance 32 with the standards adopted by the United States Department of Justice and 33 recommended by the National Center for DWI Courts, as they existed on January 34 1, 2021. 35 36 SECTION 16. Arkansas Code § 16-102-102(g), concerning probation

1	services in a DWI/BWI specialty court program, is amended to read as follows:
2	(g) Subject to <u>Under</u> § 5-65-108, probation and any other services
3	ordered by the DWI/BWI specialty court shall be ordered <u>may utilize</u>
4	probationary supervision to monitor a person's compliance with program
5	requirements and other court orders after the person pleads guilty or nolo
6	contendere to driving or boating while intoxicated, § 5-65-103.
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9	APPROVED: 4/16/25
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