

1 **State of Arkansas**  
2 **80th General Assembly**  
3 **Regular Session, 1995**  
4 **By: Representative Calhoun**

# A Bill

**ACT 823 OF 1995**  
**HOUSE BILL 1880**

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO CREATE A MUNICIPAL COURT IN WARD, LONOKE  
9 COUNTY, ARKANSAS; TO PRESCRIBE THE QUALIFICATIONS, METHOD  
10 OF SELECTION, AND TERM OF OFFICE; TO AUTHORIZE THE JUDGE  
11 OF THE COURT TO APPOINT A MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK; AND FOR  
12 OTHER PURPOSES."

## Subtitle

15 "TO CREATE A MUNICIPAL COURT IN WARD,  
16 LONOKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS"

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

20 SECTION 1. A municipal court is hereby created in the city of Ward,  
21 Lonoke County, Arkansas. The court shall be styled "The Municipal Court of  
22 Ward". The court shall be provided with a seal, and shall have all the rights  
23 and powers now provided by law for other municipal courts in this State. The  
24 said court shall be established effective July 1, 1995.

26 SECTION 2. The judge of the Municipal Court of Ward first selected  
27 shall be appointed on or before July 1, 1995 by the mayor of the city of Ward,  
28 subject to approval of the city council of the city of Ward. The person so  
29 appointed as judge of said court shall be appointed for a term to expire on  
30 December 31, 1996. At the November General Election in 1996 and each four  
31 years thereafter, the qualified electors of Lonoke County shall elect a judge  
32 of the Municipal Court of Ward. The election of the municipal judge at the  
33 1996 General Election and each four years thereafter shall be on a  
34 non-partisan basis and any qualified person desiring to be a candidate for  
35 such position may do so by filing with the County Board of Election  
36 Commissioners not later than sixty (60) days prior to the General Election,

1 petitions containing the signatures of not less than one hundred (100) nor  
2 more than two hundred (200) qualified electors of the county. The signature  
3 of at least one (1) person in each political township in the county shall be  
4 included on such petition. Such petitions shall be verified by the person or  
5 persons circulating the same. The office of judge of the Municipal Court of  
6 Ward shall be considered a municipal office from the time of its establishment  
7 until December 31, 1996, and thereafter said office shall be considered a  
8 county office. The person appointed to the municipal office of judge of the  
9 Municipal Court of Ward shall be eligible to be a candidate for the county  
10 office of judge of the Municipal Court of Ward at the 1996 General Election  
11 and to hold the county office of judge of the Municipal Court of Ward on and  
12 after January 1, 1997.

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14 SECTION 3. The judge of the Municipal Court of Ward shall be licensed  
15 to practice law in the State of Arkansas and shall have been admitted to  
16 practice law before the courts of the State of Arkansas or some other state or  
17 states for at least four (4) years prior to his appointment or election.

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19 SECTION 4. The judge of the Municipal Court of Ward is hereby  
20 authorized to appoint a clerk of said court who shall serve at the pleasure of  
21 the municipal judge.

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23 SECTION 5. From July 1, 1995, through December 31, 1996, the judge of  
24 the Municipal Court of Ward and the clerk of said court shall receive such  
25 compensation as shall be set and prescribed by the mayor and the city council  
26 of Ward and shall be paid from any funds available to the city of Ward.  
27 Beginning January 1, 1997, the judge of the Municipal Court of Ward and the  
28 clerk of said court shall be paid in a manner and in an amount as prescribed  
29 by law.

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31 SECTION 6. Any vacancy occurring in the office of judge of the  
32 Municipal Court of Ward on and after January 1, 1997, for any reason other  
33 than the normal expiration of a term, shall be filled by appointment for the  
34 unexpired term in the manner prescribed by law for filling other vacancies in  
35 county offices.

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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. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 9. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

BECAME LAW WITHOUT GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE: 3-29-95

