

**Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.**

1 State of Arkansas  
2 83rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2001  
4

*As Engrossed: H1/31/01*

## **A Bill**

**Act 300 of 2001**  
**HOUSE BILL 1171**

5 By: Representatives Womack, *Hathorn, Hickinbotham, Jackson, Milligan, Milum*  
6 By: *Senators Hunter, Fitch*  
7

### **For An Act To Be Entitled**

10 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 16-13-2203 TO CREATE A  
11 NEW CIRCUIT-CHANCERY JUDGESHIP IN THE FOURTEENTH  
12 JUDICIAL DISTRICT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
13

### **Subtitle**

14 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 16-13-2203  
15 TO CREATE A NEW CIRCUIT-CHANCERY  
16 JUDGESHIP IN THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL  
17 DISTRICT.  
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20  
21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 16-13-2203 is amended to read as follows:  
24 16-13-2203. Judges and chancellors.

25 (a) The qualified electors of the Fourteenth Judicial District shall  
26 elect:

- 27 (1) One (1) circuit judge;
- 28 (2) One (1) chancellor; and
- 29 (3) One (1) circuit-chancery judge.

30 (b)(1) The judge of the judgeship created by subdivision (a)(3) of this  
31 section shall be the judge of the juvenile division of chancery court. The  
32 judge shall serve as judge of the juvenile division in lieu of the judge who  
33 would otherwise be designated as judge of the juvenile division of chancery  
34 court in the judicial district.

35 (2) The judge of the additional circuit-chancery judgeship  
36 created in subdivision (a)(3) of this section shall devote such time as may be

1 required to perform the duties of judge of the juvenile division, which duties  
2 shall be the primary obligation of the judge, and shall sit as judge of the  
3 circuit, chancery, or probate court as time permits.

4 (c)(1) Effective immediately, there is created in the Fourteenth  
5 Judicial District an additional circuit-chancery judgeship, which shall have  
6 jurisdiction in law, equity, and probate.

7 (2) The Governor shall appoint a qualified person who is a  
8 resident of the district to temporarily fill the Fourteenth Judicial District  
9 circuit-chancery judgeship created by this subsection (c), and the appointed  
10 person shall serve until December 31, 2002, or until a successor has been  
11 elected and qualified, whichever occurs last.

12 (3) The qualified electors of the district shall elect the  
13 additional circuit judge, pursuant to Amendment 80 to the Arkansas  
14 Constitution approved at the November 7, 2000, General Election, created by  
15 this subsection (c), at the November 2002 general election to take office on  
16 January 1, 2003. The additional judge shall be elected from the district and  
17 shall satisfy the same qualifications for holding office and shall receive the  
18 same salary, expenses, and other allowances as provided by law for judges of  
19 the circuit courts. The judge shall serve for elected terms of six (6) years.

20 (4) The counties which comprise the Fourteenth Judicial District  
21 shall provide courtroom and office facilities and supplies for the judge of  
22 the circuit-chancery judgeship created by this subsection (c), which shall be  
23 paid out of the county treasuries in the same manner as other demands against  
24 the counties, out of funds appropriated by the respective quorum courts of the  
25 counties for such purposes.

26 (5) There shall be provided for the judge of the circuit-chancery  
27 judgeship created by this subsection (c) a court reporter and a trial court  
28 administrative assistant whose salaries shall be fixed and paid in the manner  
29 provided by law for court reporters and trial court administrative assistants  
30 of the circuit-chancery courts of this state.

31 SECTION 2. INTENT. The Eighty-third General Assembly finds that it is  
32 very important that the judges appointed or elected to serve the Fourteenth  
33 Judicial District provide an adequate judicial presence and adequate judicial  
34 resources to each county in the Fourteenth Judicial District. Therefore, it  
35 is the express desire of the members of the Eighty-third General Assembly that  
36 the person appointed or elected to the judgeship created by this act maintain

1 an office in Marion or Newton county throughout the duration of the term of  
2 office to which the person has been appointed or elected.

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4 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is hereby found and determined by the  
5 Eighty-third General Assembly that the caseload of the Fourteenth Judicial  
6 District necessitates the appointment of additional circuit-chancery judges  
7 immediately. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being  
8 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
9 safety shall become effective on the date of its approval by the Governor. If  
10 the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, it shall become  
11 effective on the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor  
12 may veto the bill. If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
13 overridden, it shall become effective on the date the last house overrides the  
14 veto.

15 /s/ Womack, et al.

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18 APPROVED: 2/19/2001  
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