

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION  
PROVIDING FOR A STUDY OF THE NEED TO MODIFY AND STREAMLINE  
THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF THIS STATE.

WHEREAS, the structure of the judicial system of this State was established in the Constitution of 1874; and

WHEREAS, the administration of justice in this State has not kept pace with modern technology, and our present-day judicial system is becoming antiquated in a number of respects; and

WHEREAS, funding and staffing of the judiciary is becoming a major concern; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the judicial system has been modified to include the establishment of the Court of Appeals, an increase in the civil jurisdiction of municipal courts, and jurisdiction over juvenile matters has been transferred from the jurisdiction of the juvenile court as a part of the county court, and such jurisdiction has been vested temporarily in the circuit and probate courts; and

WHEREAS, this disorganized approach to restructuring the judicial system points up the need for an overall study of a more orderly and planned judicial system, to enable Arkansas to face the complexities of our modern society;

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE 76TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Joint Interim Committee on Judiciary and the Joint Interim Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs of the General Assembly shall each designate two Senate members and three House members from their respective committees to serve on a special subcommittee to be known as the "Special Subcommittee on the Judiciary", which shall make a comprehensive study of the judicial system of this State and of the need to restructure it to meet the needs of our increasingly complex society. Such study shall include a review of:

- (1) the adequacy of funding the existing judicial system;
- (2) the need to reorganize the court system along jurisdictional lines;
- (3) election of judges versus all other alternative means of recruiting

and retaining experienced judges;

(4) the need to centralize the administration of the judiciary, and means of coordinating the orderly disposition of cases from the lowest court to the highest appellate court;

(5) the adequacy of space, support staff, equipment, and technology available to judges to assist them in meeting the needs of their respective courts; and

(6) the need to revise the Judicial Article of the Arkansas Constitution to accomplish the judicial reforms that are deemed necessary as a result of said study.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

THAT the Arkansas Judicial Council, the Municipal Judges Association, the Arkansas Bar Association, the Association of County Judges, the Municipal League, and the Judicial Department of this State, together with other interested persons or organization, are respectfully requested to cooperate with the Committee in the course of its study of the Arkansas judicial system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

THAT said Committee shall complete its study and file a written report of its findings and recommendations, including proposed statutory or constitutional changes, that the Committee deems necessary to improve the administration of justice in this State, and file copies of such report with the Joint Interim Committee on Judiciary, the Joint Interim Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs, the Legislative Council, and with the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, on or before October 1, 1988.