

1 **State of Arkansas**  
2 **78th General Assembly**  
3 **First Extraordinary Session, 1992**  
4 **By: Representative Mahony and Representative M. Wilson**

**H.R.**

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7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 THE ARKANSAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DECLARES THAT AN  
9 EMERGENCY EXISTS IN OUR STATE AND IN THE COUNTIES WITHOUT  
10 PUBLIC DEFENDER SYSTEMS, AND URGES THE QUORUM COURTS OF  
11 THOSE COUNTIES TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO INSTITUTE A  
12 PUBLIC DEFENDER SYSTEM.

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14 WHEREAS, the Arkansas Supreme Court has ruled that attorneys  
15 representing indigent defendants shall be appropriately compensated for their  
16 time; and

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18 WHEREAS, quorum courts who do not institute a public defender system in  
19 their respective counties expose the taxpayers of their respective counties to  
20 great financial risk; and

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22 WHEREAS, numerous counties in our state presently operate public  
23 defender systems comfortably within those counties\_ budgets; and

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25 WHEREAS, studies indicate that the remaining counties would spend  
26 approximately the amount now authorized by law to be spent on said public  
27 defender systems;

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29 NOW THEREFORE,

30 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIRST EXTRAORDINARY  
31 SESSION OF THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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33 THAT the Arkansas House of Representatives does declare that an  
34 emergency exists in our state, and that without immediate action by the quorum  
35 courts in the counties without public defender systems the taxpayers of our

1 state are in grave jeopardy; and

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3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT these quorum courts should immediately  
4 institute public defender systems and that the Arkansas General Assembly will,  
5 in its regular session in 1993, shore up any weak spots that develop in the  
6 execution of said systems, specifically to include conflicts of interest,  
7 capital murder cases, and extensive investigations.

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