

1 State of Arkansas
2 80th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1995
4 By: Representatives Wren, Courtway and Simon

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1260

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW CIRCUIT-CHANCERY JUDGESHIP IN THE
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT; TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE
ANNOTATED 16-13-2803 TO DESIGNATE DIVISIONS OF EXISTING
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDGESHIPS; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES."

Subtitle

"TO CREATE A NEW CIRCUIT-CHANCERY
JUDGESHIP IN THE 20TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
AND DESIGNATE DIVISIONS OF EXISTING 20TH
JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDGESHIPS"

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

SECTION 1. (a) Effective immediately upon passage and approval of
this act, there is hereby created in the Twentieth Judicial District an
additional circuit-chancery judgeship, which shall have jurisdiction in law,
equity, and probate, and shall be designated "Division 4" in all
jurisdictions.

(b) As soon as possible after the effective date of this act, the
Governor shall appoint a qualified person to temporarily fill the Twentieth
Judicial District Circuit-Chancery judgeship created herein, and the
appointed person shall serve until December 31, 1996, or until a successor
has been elected and qualified, whichever occurs last.

(c) The qualified electors of the Twentieth Judicial District shall
elect the additional circuit-chancery judge created herein at the November
1996 general election to take office on January 1, 1997. The additional
judge shall be elected in the same manner and shall satisfy the same

1 qualifications for holding office and shall receive the same salary,
2 expenses, and other allowances as provided by law for judges of the
3 circuit-chancery courts. The judge shall serve for elected terms of four (4)
4 years.

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6 SECTION 2. The counties which comprise the Twentieth Judicial District
7 shall provide courtroom and office facilities and supplies for the judge of
8 the circuit-chancery judgeship created by this act, which shall be paid out
9 of the county treasuries in the same manner as other demands against the
10 counties, out of funds appropriated by the respective quorum courts of the
11 counties for such purposes.

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13 SECTION 3. There shall be provided for the judge of the
14 circuit-chancery judgeship created by this act a court reporter, whose salary
15 shall be fixed and paid in the manner provided by law for court reporters of
16 the circuit-chancery courts of this state.

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18 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Annotated § 16-13-2803 is amended to read as
19 follows:

20 "16-13-2803. Judges and chancellors.

21 (a) The qualified electors of the Twentieth Judicial District shall
22 elect:

- 23 (1) One (1) circuit judge;
24 (2) One (1) chancellor; and
25 (3) One (1) circuit-chancery judge.

26 (b)(1) The judgeship created by subdivision (a)(3) of this section
27 shall be the judge of the juvenile division of chancery court and shall be
28 designated Division 2 in all jurisdictions.

29 (2) The judge shall devote such time as may be required to
30 perform the duties of judge of the juvenile division, which duties shall be
31 the primary obligation of the judge, and shall sit as judge of the circuit,
32 chancery, or probate court as time permits.

33 (c) Effective January 1, 1995, the circuit judgeship created by
34 subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall become a circuit-chancery judgeship
35 which shall have jurisdiction in law, equity, and probate and shall be

1 designated Division 1 in all jurisdictions.

2 (d) Effective January 1, 1997, the chancery judgeship created by
3 subdivision (a)(2) of this section shall become a circuit-chancery judgeship
4 which shall have jurisdiction in law, equity, and probate and shall be
5 designated Division 3 in all jurisdictions."

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7 SECTION 5. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent
8 nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas
9 Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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11 SECTION 6. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
12 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
13 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
14 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
15 act are declared to be severable.

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17 SECTION 7. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
18 hereby repealed.

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20 SECTION 8. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the
21 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the caseload of the Twentieth
22 Judicial District necessitates the appointment of an additional
23 circuit-chancery judge immediately. Therefore, an emergency is hereby
24 declared to exist and this act being necessary for the immediate preservation
25 of the public peace, health, and safety, shall be in full force and effect
26 from and after its passage and approval.

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28 */s/Rep. Wren, et al*

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