

Stricken language would be deleted from present law. Underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas
2 81st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1997

As Engrossed: H3/26/97

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2226

4
5 By: Representatives Faris and Rodgers
6 By: Senator Everett

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO CREATE THE JUDICIAL RESOURCES COUNCIL AND TO
9 AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 10-2-124 AND 16-10-501 TO PROVIDE FOR
10 THE DUTIES OF THE JUDICIAL RESOURCES COUNCIL; AND FOR
11 OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

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13
14 "AN ACT TO CREATE THE JUDICIAL RESOURCES
15 COUNCIL."

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

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19 SECTION 1. (a) There is created the Judicial Resources Council to be
20 composed of eleven (11) members to be appointed as follows:

21 (1) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall appoint four (4)
22 members who shall be judges of general jurisdiction;

23 (2) The Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee shall appoint
24 one (1) member of the House Judiciary Committee;

25 (3) The Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee shall appoint
26 one (1) member of the Senate Judiciary Committee; and

27 (4) The Governor shall appoint:

28 (A) One (1) practicing attorney from the first or second
29 congressional district;

30 (B) One (1) practicing attorney from the third or fourth
31 congressional district;

32 (C) One (1) county judge;

33 (D) One (1) prosecuting attorney, recommended by the
34 Arkansas Prosecuting Attorneys Association;

35 (E) One (1) member appointed from the general public.

36 (b) The members of the Judicial Resources Council shall serve for terms

1 of four (4) years. However the initial members shall determine their terms by
2 lot so that three (3) members have a term of one (1) year; four (4) members
3 have a term of two (2) years; four (4) members have a term of three (3) years;
4 and four (4) members have a term of four (4) years.

5 (c) Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as for the initial
6 appointments.

7 (d) The members of the council shall annually elect a chairman.

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9 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code 10-2-124 is amended to read as follows:

10 ~~§10-2-124. Bills introduced to change existing circuit and chancery~~
11 ~~court districts.~~

12 ~~—— (a) All bills introduced in either house of the General Assembly to~~
13 ~~change any of the existing circuit and chancery court districts through~~
14 ~~redistricting or by providing additional judgeships shall be referred to the~~
15 ~~Senate Judiciary Committee if the bill is from the Senate, or the House~~
16 ~~Judiciary Committee if the bill is from the House of Representatives.~~

17 ~~—— (b) The Senate or House Judiciary Committee shall request a letter~~
18 ~~certifying whether or not the proposed change meets the criteria of the~~
19 ~~Arkansas Judicial Council which shall be certified by the secretary-treasurer~~
20 ~~of the Arkansas Judicial Council.~~

21 ~~—— (c) No bill to change any of the existing circuit and chancery court~~
22 ~~districts through redistricting or providing additional judgeships shall be~~
23 ~~acted upon in either committee until a letter certifying that the proposed~~
24 ~~change meets the criteria has been attached to the bill. Upon suspension of~~
25 ~~the Joint Rules of the House and Senate, a bill may be withdrawn from the~~
26 ~~House or Senate Judiciary Committee and acted upon without the certification~~
27 ~~of the council attached thereto."~~

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29 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code 16-10-501 is amended to read as follows:

30 ~~§16-10-501. Development of criteria for new judgeships or redistricting.~~

31 ~~(a) The Arkansas Judicial Council Judicial Resources Council,~~
32 ~~hereinafter referred to as the 'council', is authorized ~~and directed to~~~~
33 ~~develop criteria for new judgeships or redistricting of the circuit and~~
34 ~~chancery court districts of this state and to make recommendations to the~~
35 ~~regular or special session of the General Assembly regarding the number and~~
36 ~~boundaries of the circuit and chancery court districts in the state, the~~

1 number and types of judges in each of such districts, and such other matters
2 regarding circuit and chancery courts in the state as it determines to be
3 appropriate.

4 (b) In ~~establishing~~ recommending circuit and chancery court districts
5 of this state, the council shall take into consideration caseload, geographic
6 area to be served by the respective circuit courts and chancery courts, and
7 such other matters as the council determines to be appropriate.

8 ~~—— (c) The council shall meet on or before November 1 of each even-~~
9 ~~numbered year to finalize criteria for establishing additional judgeships or~~
10 ~~redistricting during the next regular session of the General Assembly."~~

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12 SECTION 4. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
13 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
14 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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16 SECTION 5. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
17 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
18 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
19 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
20 act are declared to be severable.

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22 SECTION 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
23 hereby repealed.

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26 /s/Rep. Faris et al

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