

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  
4  
5 By: Senator Hopkins

## A Bill

SENATE BILL 551

### For An Act To Be Entitled

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

### Subtitle

14 "AN ACT CONCERNING DUTIES OF THE  
15 JUDICIAL COUNCIL."

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

20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 16-10-501 is amended to read as follows:

21 ~~§~~16-10-501. Development of criteria for new judgeships or redistricting.

22 (a) The Arkansas Judicial Council, hereinafter referred to as the  
23 council, is authorized and directed to develop criteria for new judgeships ~~or~~  
24 ~~redistricting of the circuit and chancery court districts~~ of this state and to  
25 make recommendations to the regular or special session of the General Assembly  
26 regarding the number and ~~boundaries of the circuit and chancery court~~  
27 ~~districts in the state, the number and~~ types of judges in each of such  
28 districts, and such other matters regarding circuit and chancery courts in the  
29 state, other than judicial registering, as it determines to be appropriate.

30 ~~—— (b) In establishing circuit and chancery court districts of this state,~~  
31 ~~the council shall take into consideration caseload, geographic area to be~~  
32 ~~served by the respective circuit courts and chancery courts, and such other~~  
33 ~~matters as the council determines to be appropriate.~~

34 ~~—— (c)(b) The council shall meet on or before November 1 of each even-~~  
35 ~~numbered year to finalize criteria for establishing additional judgeships or~~  
36 ~~redistricting during the next regular session of the General Assembly at least~~

1 twice a year and may meet more often to evaluate submitted proposals for  
2 judgeships or to examine the general need for judgeships.»

3

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

5 §10-2-124. Bills introduced to change existing circuit and chancery  
6 court districts.

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

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

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

23

24 SECTION 3. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature  
25 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code  
26 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

27

28 SECTION 4. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to  
29 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
30 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without  
31 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
32 act are declared to be severable.

33

34 SECTION 5. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
35 hereby repealed.