

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to law as it existed prior to the 82nd General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 82nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1999
4

As Engrossed: S3/4/99
A Bill

SENATE BILL 663

5 By: Senator Everett
6
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8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 "AN ACT TO CREATE THE JUDICIAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT
10 COMMITTEE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."
11

12 **Subtitle**

13 "TO CREATE THE JUDICIAL RESOURCES
14 ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE"
15
16

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. (a) There is hereby created the Judicial Resources
20 Assessment Committee consisting of eight (8) persons to be appointed by the
21 Governor as follows:

22 (1) Four (4) licensed practicing attorneys, one from each of the
23 four (4) Congressional Districts; and

24 (2) Four (4) members who shall be appointed from the circuit
25 judges, circuit-chancery judges, chancery judges or prosecuting attorneys of
26 this state, one from each of the four (4) Congressional Districts.

27 (b) Members of the Judicial Resources Assessment Committee shall serve
28 eight (8) year terms; however, the Governor shall have the power to stagger
29 the terms of the initial members so that two (2) members serve two (2) years
30 after appointment, two (2) members serve four (4) years after appointment, two
31 (2) members serve six (6) years after appointment, and two (2) members serve
32 eight (8) years after appointment.

33 (c) No two (2) members of the Judicial Resources Assessment Committee
34 shall be residents of the same judicial circuits.

35 (d) The members of the Judicial Resources Assessment Committee shall
36 serve without pay, but may be reimbursed for expenses and mileage as

1 prescribed in § 25-16-902 which shall be paid from moneys appropriated for the
2 maintenance and operation of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

3 (e) Staff assistance to the Judicial Resources Assessment Committee
4 shall be provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

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

7 "10-2-124. Bills introduced to change existing circuit and chancery
8 court districts.

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

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

18 (c) No bill to change any of the existing circuit and chancery court
19 districts through redistricting or providing additional judgeships shall be
20 acted upon in either committee until a letter certifying that the proposed
21 change meets the criteria has been attached to the bill. Upon suspension of
22 the Joint Rules of the House and Senate, a bill may be withdrawn from the
23 House or Senate Judiciary Committee and acted upon without the certification
24 of the council attached thereto."
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26 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 16-10-501 is amended to read as follows:

27 "16-10-501. Development of criteria for new judgeships or redistricting.

28 (a) ~~The Arkansas Judicial Council, hereinafter referred to as the~~
29 ~~"council",~~ Judicial Resources Assessment Committee is authorized and directed
30 to develop criteria for new judgeships or redistricting of the circuit and
31 chancery court districts of this state and to make recommendations to the
32 regular or special session of the General Assembly regarding the number and
33 boundaries of the circuit and chancery court districts in the state, the
34 number and types of judges in each of such districts, and such other matters
35 regarding circuit and chancery courts in the state as it determines to be
36 appropriate.

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

5 (c) The ~~council~~ committee shall meet on or before November 1 of each
6 even-numbered year to finalize criteria for establishing additional judgeships
7 or redistricting during the next regular session of the General Assembly.”
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9 SECTION 4. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
10 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
11 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.
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13 SECTION 5. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
14 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
15 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
16 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
17 act are declared to be severable.
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19 SECTION 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
20 hereby repealed.

21 /s/ Everett
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