

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1989

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5 By: Representative Childers
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON
10 DISTRICT COURTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12
13 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE LEGISLATIVE TASK
14 FORCE ON DISTRICT COURTS.
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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 Legislative Task Force on
20 District Courts. The task force shall be composed of the following members:

21 (1) Two (2) members of the Senate appointed by the Chair of the
22 Senate Interim Committee on Judiciary;

23 (2) Two (2) members of the House of Representatives appointed by
24 the Chair of the House Interim Committee on Judiciary;

25 (3) The Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court or his
26 designee;

27 (4) One (1) circuit judge appointed by the Arkansas Judicial
28 Council;

29 (5) Two (2) district judges appointed by the Arkansas District
30 Judges Council;

31 (6) One (1) member, who shall be engaged full-time in the
32 private practice of law, appointed by the Arkansas Bar Association.

33 (b)(1) The Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Judiciary shall
34 designate one (1) Senator as cochair of the task force.

35 (2) The Chair of the House Interim Committee on Judiciary shall
36 designate one (1) member of the House of Representatives as cochair of the



1 task force.

2 (c)(1) The task force shall conduct a comprehensive study of the
3 transition of district judges to state employee status and the funding and
4 role of district courts. The study shall include but shall not be limited
5 to:

6 (A) The adoption of a process to merge existing district
7 judges into a unified three tiered court system;

8 (B) The transition of district judges to state employees;

9 (C) The retention and allocation of court costs, fines and
10 other revenues;

11 (D) The merger of existing city and police courts into
12 district courts;

13 (E) The creation of a multiple tiered salary plan based on
14 caseload and other appropriate criteria;

15 (F) The effectiveness of utilization of additional
16 district judges of expanding the jurisdiction of existing district judges as
17 an alternative to the creation of additional circuit judges; and

18 (G) The creation of either a separate district court
19 resource assessment board or expansion of the existing Judicial Resource
20 Assessment Committee to be authorized to determine creation, merger, or
21 expansion of future district courts or positions.

22 (2) The task force shall file a report of its findings and
23 recommendations for legislation with the Senate Interim Committee on
24 Judiciary and the House Interim Committee on Judiciary. The report by the
25 task force shall be filed by September 1, 2006.

26 (d) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff support for
27 the task force.

28 (e) The task force may employ the services of one (1) or more experts
29 to advise the commission during the course of its study, if an appropriation
30 is made for that purpose.

31 (f) The commission expires on December 31, 2006.

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