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	*As Engrossed: S3/31/05*
2	85th General Assembly	A Bill
3	Regular Session, 2005	HOUSE BILL 1989
4		
5	By: Representative Childers	
6		
7		

<div align="center">

8   **For An Act To Be Entitled**

</div>

9   AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON

10   DISTRICT COURTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

11

<div align="center">

12   **Subtitle**

</div>

13   AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE LEGISLATIVE TASK

14   FORCE ON DISTRICT COURTS.

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 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   *(7) One (1) member to be appointed by the Arkansas Municipal*

34 *League; and*

35   *(8) One (1) member to be appointed by the Association of*

36 *Arkansas Counties.*

1   (b)(1) The Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Judiciary shall

2   designate one (1) Senator as cochair of the task force.

3   (2) The Chair of the House Interim Committee on Judiciary shall

4   designate one (1) member of the House of Representatives as cochair of the

5   task force.

6   (c)(1) The task force shall conduct a comprehensive study of the

7   transition of district judges to state employee status and the funding and

8   role of district courts. The study shall include but shall not be limited

9   to:

10   (A) The adoption of a process to merge existing district

11 judges into a unified three tiered court system;

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

13   (C) The retention and allocation of court costs, fines and

14 other revenues;

15   (D) The merger of existing city and police courts into

16 district courts;

17   (E) The creation of a multiple tiered salary plan based on

18 caseload and other appropriate criteria;

19   (F) The effectiveness of utilization of additional

20 district judges of expanding the jurisdiction of existing district judges as

21 an alternative to the creation of additional circuit judges;

22   (G) The creation of either a separate district court

23 resource assessment board or expansion of the existing Judicial Resource

24 Assessment Committee to be authorized to determine creation, merger, or

25 *expansion of future district courts or positions;*

26   *(H) The effectiveness of any programs creating district*

27 *judgeships with expanded jurisdiction; and*

28   *(I) The impact of Amendment 80 of the Arkansas*

29 *Constitution on the district and city court systems.*

30   (2) The task force shall file a report of its findings and

31 recommendations for legislation with the Senate Interim Committee on

32 Judiciary and the House Interim Committee on Judiciary. The report by the

33 task force shall be filed by September 1, 2006.

34   (d) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff support for

35 the task force.

36   (e) The task force may employ the services of one (1) or more experts

1   to advise the commission during the course of its study, if an appropriation

2   is made for that purpose.

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

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5   /s/ Childers

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