

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 86th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2007  
4

*As Engrossed: S2/13/07*

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 89

5 By: Senator J. Taylor  
6 By: Representative Harrelson  
7  
8

## For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF  
11 THE COURTS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO  
12 CITIES AND COUNTIES IN THE ADOPTION OF LOCAL  
13 COURT SECURITY PLANS AND THE PROVISION OF COURT  
14 SECURITY FOR CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT COURTS; TO  
15 PROVIDE FOR THE CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING OF  
16 COURT SECURITY OFFICERS; TO ESTABLISH A STATE  
17 COURT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER  
18 PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

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21 TO REQUIRE THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF  
22 THE COURTS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AND  
23 SUPPORT TO CITIES AND COUNTIES IN THE  
24 ADOPTION OF LOCAL COURT SECURITY PLANS  
25 AND THE PROVISION OF COURT SECURITY FOR  
26 CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT COURTS.  
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29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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31 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 16, Chapter 10 is amended to add an  
32 additional subchapter to read as follows:

33 16-10-1001. Title.

34 This subchapter shall be known as the "Arkansas Court Security Act".  
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36 16-10-1002. Purpose and findings.



1       (a) Recent incidents involving serious court security failures  
2 resulting in death or injury to judges and others in court facilities across  
3 the United States indicate that court security is an issue requiring an  
4 immediate response from this state.

5       (b) It is a valid expectation that every person who attends or is  
6 present in a court proceeding in a district, circuit, or appellate court in  
7 this state is entitled to a reasonably safe and secure environment.

8       (c) It is a goal of this state to provide citizens, litigants, jurors,  
9 attorneys, court employees, and judges with a safe and secure venue in which  
10 to work and conduct business.

11       (d) It is the purpose of this subchapter to establish a general  
12 program for security and emergency preparedness for the judicial branch of  
13 government.

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15       16-10-1003. Administrative Office of the Courts – Duties – Director of  
16 Security and Emergency Preparedness.

17       (a) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall:

18               (1) Assist the Supreme Court with the creation and management of  
19 a state security and emergency preparedness plan for the judicial branch of  
20 government; and

21               (2) Provide assistance and support to city and county  
22 governments of this state for the adoption and implementation of local  
23 security and emergency preparedness plans for circuit and district courts.

24       (b)(1) There is created within the Administrative Office of the Courts  
25 a Director of Security and Emergency Preparedness for the judicial branch of  
26 government. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide space and  
27 administrative assistance to support the work of the Director of Security and  
28 Emergency Preparedness.

29               (2) The Director of Security and Emergency Preparedness shall  
30 report to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Director of the  
31 Administrative Office of the Courts.

32               (3) The Director of Security and Emergency Preparedness shall:

33                       (A) Assist with the development and adoption of a state  
34 security and emergency preparedness plan for the judicial branch of  
35 government;

36                       (B) Assist agencies of this state and local governments of

1 this state with the development and adoption of local security and emergency  
2 preparedness plans for circuit and district courts;

3 (C) Assist in the development and provision of training  
4 and education on court security and emergency preparedness to judges, court  
5 employees, and court security officers;

6 (D) Conduct periodic assessments of state and local  
7 security and emergency preparedness plans for courts and note deficiencies  
8 and areas of improvement; and

9 (E) Serve as the point of contact on state court security  
10 and emergency preparedness issues for the judicial branch of government and  
11 act as the representative of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to  
12 executive and legislative branch officials involved with the issues of court  
13 security and emergency preparedness.

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15 16-10-1004. Court security officers.

16 (a)(1) There is established a training and certification program for  
17 court security officers.

18 (2) As used in this section, "court security officer" means an  
19 individual who is assigned the duty of providing security or security-related  
20 services at the request of an appellate court, circuit court, or district  
21 court in this state.

22 (3)(A) A court security officer may be employed directly by an  
23 appellate court, circuit court, or district court or by a law enforcement  
24 agency of this state or a city or county in this state.

25 (B) A court security officer may provide services to a  
26 court on either a full-time or part-time basis.

27 (b) The duties of a court security officer may include:

28 (1) The attendance in court when court is in session;

29 (2) The supervision and maintenance of order in a courtroom or  
30 courthouse;

31 (3) Providing security for individuals involved in court  
32 proceedings; and

33 (4) Other incidental and related duties at the direction of a  
34 court.

35 (c) In order to be eligible to provide services in an appellate court,  
36 circuit court, or district court in this state, a court security officer

1 shall:

2 (1)(A) Be certified as a law enforcement officer by the Arkansas  
3 Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training under the laws and  
4 regulations of this state.

5 (B) A court security officer shall complete the law  
6 enforcement certification requirement within one (1) year of beginning his or  
7 her term of service as a court security officer.

8 (C) A court security officer shall maintain the law  
9 enforcement certification during the term of his or her service as a court  
10 security officer; and

11 (2) Complete an additional training program for court security  
12 officers approved by the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and  
13 Training.

14 (d) A court or law enforcement agency employing a court security  
15 officer shall:

16 (1) Ensure that a court security officer attains the  
17 certification required under subdivision (c)(1) of this section within one  
18 (1) year of beginning his or her term of service as a court security officer;  
19 and

20 (2) Require submission of and maintain records for the  
21 documentation of the court security officer's certification as a law  
22 enforcement officer.

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24 16-10-1005. Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and  
25 Training – Duties.

26 The Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training  
27 shall:

28 (1) Establish the standards and requirements for the training  
29 and certification program for court security officers;

30 (2) Work with the Administrative Office of the Courts to develop  
31 curriculum specific to the needs and requirements of a court security  
32 officer;

33 (3) Maintain an official roster of individuals who have  
34 successfully completed the training of a court security officer;

35 (4) Establish minimum curriculum requirements and approve  
36 courses and programs offered and operated by or for this state or its

1 political subdivisions for the specific purpose of offering training to a  
2 court security officer; and

3 (5) Consult and cooperate with counties, municipalities,  
4 agencies of this state, other governmental agencies, universities, colleges,  
5 junior colleges, community colleges, and other institutions or organizations  
6 concerning the development of court security officer programs or courses of  
7 instruction.

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9 16-10-1006. Court security grant program.

10 (a) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall administer a court  
11 security grant program for the purpose of providing financial assistance,  
12 from funds specifically appropriated for that purpose, to city and county  
13 governments to assist in the implementation of local security and emergency  
14 preparedness plans for circuit courts and district courts.

15 (b)(1) Guidelines for the court security grant program shall be  
16 developed by the Administrative Office of the Courts by December 31, 2007,  
17 and shall be approved by the Legislative Council prior to the disbursement of  
18 any grant funds.

19 (2) Beginning July 31, 2008, and on July 31 of every year, the  
20 Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide an annual report to the  
21 Legislative Council that shall include the number of grant requests received  
22 from cities and counties and the number and amount of grants approved.

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24 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 12-9-107 concerning training programs under  
25 the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training is amended  
26 to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

27 (f) The Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training  
28 shall administer the training and certification program for court security  
29 officers under the Arkansas Court Security Act, § 16-10-1001 et seq.

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31 SECTION 3. Recommendations.

32 The General Assembly recommends:

33 (1) That the Supreme Court develop a comprehensive policy on  
34 security and emergency preparedness for the judicial branch of the  
35 government;

36 (2) That the Supreme Court establish standards for every county

1 for the development of a local security and emergency preparedness plan for  
2 circuit courts in the county and establish standards for every city in which  
3 a district court is located for the development of a local security and  
4 emergency preparedness plan for district courts in the city; and

5 (3)(A) That the Supreme Court create a Security and Emergency  
6 Preparedness Advisory Committee.

7 (B) The committee should be inclusive of judges, law  
8 enforcement officers, sheriffs, city and county executive officers, emergency  
9 preparedness officials, legislators, and others involved in providing  
10 security to the courts.

11 (C) Legislative representation on the committee should be  
12 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President  
13 Pro Tempore of the Senate.

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15 */s/ J. Taylor*  
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