

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1978

5 By: Representative Gazaway
6 By: Senator B. Johnson
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ADD AN ADDITIONAL JUDGESHIP TO THE
9 SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT OF THE STATE DISTRICT COURT
10 SYSTEM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11
12
13

Subtitle

14 TO ADD AN ADDITIONAL JUDGESHIP TO THE
15 SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT OF THE STATE
16 DISTRICT COURT SYSTEM.
17
18

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
20

21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 16-17-1113(i), concerning the Seventeenth
22 District composed of the counties of Clay and Greene, is amended to read as
23 follows:

24 (i)(1) The Seventeenth District is composed of the counties of Clay
25 and Greene.

26 (2) The Seventeenth District has five (5) departments as
27 follows:

28 (A) One (1) located in Paragould;

29 (B) One (1) located in Marmaduke;

30 (C) One (1) located in Corning;

31 (D) One (1) located in Piggott; and

32 (E) One (1) located in Rector.

33 (3) The Seventeenth District is served by ~~one (1)~~ two (2) state
34 district court ~~judge~~ judges.

35 (4) The Seventeenth District ~~judge is~~ judges are elected
36 districtwide.



1 (5) The Seventeenth District court has districtwide
2 jurisdiction.

3 (6)(A) One (1) of the state district court judges under this
4 section shall have salary and benefits paid as provided under § 16-17-1106.

5 (B) In lieu of § 16-17-1106, one (1) of the state district
6 court judges under this section shall have salary and benefits paid as
7 follows:

8 (i) The state shall pay the salary and benefits of
9 the state district court judge;

10 (ii) The funds necessary to cover the salary and
11 benefits of the state district court judge, including without limitation
12 retirement benefits, shall be divided between the City of Paragould, Greene
13 County, and Clay County, with the City of Paragould paying one-half (1/2) of
14 seventy-five percent (75%) of the salary and benefits, Greene County paying
15 one-half (1/2) of seventy-five percent (75%) of the salary and benefits, and
16 Clay County paying twenty-five percent (25%) of the salary and benefits; and

17 (iii) On or before January 15 of each year, the sum
18 under subdivision (i)(6)(B)(ii) of this section to fund the salary and
19 benefits of the state district court judge shall be remitted to the
20 Administration of Justice Funds Section for deposit into the Constitutional
21 Officers Fund.

22
23 SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW STATE DISTRICT COURT
24 JUDGESHIP. The new state district court judgeship created by this act shall
25 become effective January 1, 2027, and shall be placed on the ballot to be
26 elected at the 2026 nonpartisan judicial election.