

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1644

5 By: Representative Dalby
6 By: Senator A. Clark
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE COMPENSATION
10 OF A RETIRED JUDGE APPOINTED AS A SPECIAL JUDGE; TO
11 CLARIFY THAT A RETIRED JUDGE MAY SERVE AS A SPECIAL
12 JUDGE IMMEDIATELY UPON RETIREMENT; TO DECLARE AN
13 EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15
16 CONCERNING THE COMPENSATION OF A RETIRED
17 JUDGE APPOINTED AS A SPECIAL JUDGE; TO
18 CLARIFY THAT A RETIRED JUDGE MAY SERVE
19 AS A SPECIAL JUDGE IMMEDIATELY UPON
20 RETIREMENT; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative intent.

26 The General Assembly intends:

27 (1) To clarify the ability of a retired judge to serve as a
28 special judge immediately upon retirement, as provided by Arkansas
29 Constitution, Amendment 80, § 13, and other law; and

30 (2) For this act to apply retroactively to January 1, 2025.
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32 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 16-10-902, concerning the compensation of a
33 retired judge appointed as a special judge, is amended to add an additional
34 subsection to read as follows:

35 (c) A retired judge may serve as a special judge immediately upon
36 leaving office.



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SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the number of requests for special judges is currently higher than the number of retired judges available to be appointed; that there is a need to clarify that a retired judge may be appointed as a special judge immediately upon leaving office; and that this act is immediately necessary to ensure the timely administration of justice. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

- (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;
- (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or
- (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

APPROVED: 3/20/25