

State of Arkansas
76th General Assembly
Regular Session, 1987
By: Senator Walters

SENATE BILL 411

"AN ACT TO EQUALIZE AND ESTABLISH THE SALARY OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES IN COUNTIES WITH LESS THAN 53,000 INHABITANTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Authority to Establish Compensation Levels. The quorum court of each county having a population of less than 53,000 persons shall by ordinance establish the annual salary (within the minimum and maximum herein provided) of the judges of municipal courts subject to this Act located within such county. The only municipal court judges subject to this Act are those which are elected countywide or districtwide and which exercise countywide or districtwide jurisdiction.

(a) Classification of Counties. For purposes of determining the salary of such municipal court judges, the counties with a population of less than 53,000 persons shall be classified on the basis of population as determined by the last preceding federal decennial census according to the following classifications:

CLASSIFICATION	POPULATION
Class 1	0-9,999
Class 2	10,000 - 16,999
Class 3	17,000 - 26,999
Class 4	27,000 - 34,999
Class 5	35,000 - 43,999
Class 6	44,000 - 52,999

(b) The minimum and maximum annual salary of such municipal court judges within such counties shall be as follows:

CLASSIFICATION	ANNUAL SALARY	
	NOT_LESS_THAN	NOR_MORE_THAN

Class 1	\$ 7,500.00	\$15,000.00
Class 2	14,000.00	22,000.00
Class 3	19,000.00	27,000.00
Class 4	24,000.00	32,000.00
Class 5	29,000.00	37,000.00
Class 6	34,000.00	42,000.00

(c) The salary of such municipal court judges shall be paid in equal monthly installments. The salary and expenses appropriated for such municipal courts shall be paid by the cities of the first and second class, incorporated towns and the county wherein said court is located in a pro-rated amount based on the number of criminal cases filed from the county and each city and town over which such municipal court judge exercises jurisdiction during the preceding calendar year. Apportionment of the cost of the salaries and court expenses shall be by order of the municipal court upon the municipal court clerk's certification of the cases filed.

(d) Each municipal court judge subject to this Act may employ a chief clerk whose salary shall not be less than the salary of a chief deputy clerk in the office of the probate clerk, county clerk or circuit court clerk (whichever salary is highest) of the county where the court is located, and employ such deputy clerks as deemed necessary and approved by the quorum court.

(e) No portion of this Act shall be construed to reduce the salary of any municipal court judge or municipal court clerk.

(f) The salaries of personnel of all municipal courts not subject to this Act shall be as provided by law.

(g) In those counties having two or more municipal courts, which courts are presided over by different judges, the salary of such judges shall be established by separate law.

SECTION 2. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly that the salaries currently prescribed by law for judges of various municipal courts are inadequate to compensate the judges of such courts for their services; that the effective and efficient operation of such municipal courts in

the State are essential to the administration of justice; and this Act is necessary to assure the effective and efficient operation of such courts and should be given effect immediately. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

