

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 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003
4

As Engrossed: S3/17/03

A Bill

SENATE BILL 874

5 By: Senator Salmon
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH JUDICIAL DISTRICTS AND THE
10 NUMBER OF JUDGES FOR DISTRICT COURTS; AND FOR
11 OTHER PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH JUDICIAL DISTRICTS
15 AND THE NUMBER OF JUDGES FOR DISTRICT
16 COURTS.
17
18

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

21 SECTION 1. Definitions.

22 As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

23 (1) "Department" means the physical location where sessions of
24 court are held; and

25 (2) "Division" means the subject matter division of the court.
26

27 SECTION 2. (a)(1)(A) Each of the following counties shall have one
28 (1) district court and one (1) part time district judge:

29 (B) Baxter, Boone, Bradley, Calhoun, Clark, Cleburne,
30 Cleveland, Columbia, Conway, Cross, Dallas, Drew, Faulkner, Fulton, Grant,
31 Greene, Hempstead, Hot Spring, Howard, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Johnson,
32 Lawrence, Lafayette, Lee, Lincoln, Little River, Madison, Marion, Miller,
33 Montgomery, Nevada, Newton, Perry, Pike, Poinsett, Polk, Randolph, Scott,
34 Searcy, Sevier, Sharp, St. Francis, Stone, Union, Van Buren, and Woodruff.

35 (2) The salary status and grade for these district judgeships
36 shall be as follows:



1 (A) Faulkner and Miller Counties - Part time/1;

2 (B) Clark, Greene, Poinsett, and Union Counties - Part
3 time/2;

4 (C) Baxter, Boone, Conway, Hempstead, Hot Spring,
5 Independence, Lawrence, and St. Francis Counties - Part time/3;

6 (D) Cleburne, Columbia, Cross, Fulton, Howard, Jackson,
7 Johnson, Lee, Lincoln, Little River, Perry, Polk, Randolph, Sevier, Sharp,
8 and Van Buren Counties - Part time/4;

9 (E) Bradley, Calhoun, Cleveland, Dallas, Drew, Izard,
10 Lafayette, Marion, Nevada, Scott, Searcy, and Stone Counties - Part time/5;
11 and

12 (F) Grant, Madison, Montgomery, Newton, Pike, and Woodruff
13 Counties - Part time/6.

14 (3) The district court shall be located in the county seat of
15 the counties listed in subdivision (a)(2) of this section.

16 (4)(A) The judge of any district court located in a county with
17 one (1) district court shall be elected countywide.

18 (B) If there is only one (1) district court in a county,
19 it shall have countywide jurisdiction.

20

21 SECTION 3. Crittenden County shall have the following district courts
22 and judges:

23 (1) Marion shall have one (1) district court and one (1) part-
24 time district judge with a salary status and grade of Part time/5.

25 (2) West Memphis shall have one (1) district court and one (1)
26 part time district judge with a salary status and grade of Part time/3.

27 (3) The jurisdiction of any district court in Crittenden County
28 shall be countywide.

29 (4) The judge of any district court in Crittenden County shall
30 be elected countywide.

31

32 SECTION 4. (a)(1) Carroll, Franklin, Logan, and Prairie counties,
33 having two (2) judicial districts, shall have one (1) district court in each
34 district and one (1) part time district judge for each court:

35 (2) The salary status and grade for these district judgeships
36 shall be as follows:

1 (A) Logan and Franklin Counties – Part time/4;

2 and

3 (B) Carroll County - Part time/5.

4 (C) Prairie County:

5 (i) Des Arc - Part Time/2; and

6 (ii) DeValls Bluff - Part Time/5.

7 (b) The district court in Carroll, Franklin, Logan, and Prairie
8 counties shall be located in the county seat town of each judicial district
9 in the county.

10 (c) The judge of any district court located in Carroll, Franklin,
11 Logan, and Prairie counties shall be elected by the electors of the judicial
12 district in which the court is located.

13 (d) In Carroll, Franklin, Logan, and Prairie counties the jurisdiction
14 of the district court shall be limited to the district in which the court
15 sits.

16

17 SECTION 5. (a)(1) Sebastian County, having two (2) judicial
18 districts, shall have:

19 (A) One (1) district court in Ft. Smith with two (2)
20 divisions, and one (1) full time judge for each division; and

21 (B) One district court in Greenwood with one (1) part time
22 district judge.

23 (2) The salary status and grade for these district judgeships
24 shall be as follows:

25 (A) Fort Smith - Full time/B; and

26 (B) Greenwood - Part time/3.

27 (3) The judge of any district court in Sebastian County shall be
28 elected by the electors of the judicial district in which the court is
29 located.

30 (4) The jurisdiction of the district court in Sebastian County
31 shall be limited to the district in which the court is located.

32

33 SECTION 6. (a) Craighead County, having two (2) judicial districts,
34 shall have one (1) district court in Jonesboro with two (2) divisions and one
35 (1) full time judge for each division.

36 (b) The salary status and grade for these district judgeships shall be

1 Full time/B.

2 (c) The judges of the district court in Craighead County shall be
3 elected countywide.

4 (d) The district court in Craighead County shall have countywide
5 jurisdiction.

6
7 SECTION 7. (a) Clay County, having two (2) judicial districts, shall
8 have one (1) district court with two (2) departments, one (1) department
9 located in the county seat town of each judicial district and both
10 departments to be served by one (1) part time judge.

11 (b) The salary status and grade for this district judgeship shall be
12 Part time/4.

13 (c) The judge of the district court in Clay County shall be elected
14 countywide.

15 (d) The district court in Clay County shall have countywide
16 jurisdiction.

17
18 SECTION 8. (a) Arkansas County, having two (2) judicial districts,
19 shall have two (2) district courts, one (1) located in the county seat town
20 of each judicial district and one (1) part time judge for each court.

21 (b) The salary status and grade for these district judgeships shall be
22 as follows:

23 (1) Stuttgart - Part time/4; and

24 (2) Dewitt - Part time/5.

25 (c) The judge of any district court in Arkansas County shall be
26 elected by the electors of the judicial district in which the court is
27 located.

28 (d) The jurisdiction of the district court in Arkansas County shall be
29 limited to the district in which the court is located.

30
31 SECTION 9. (a) Mississippi County, having two (2) judicial districts,
32 shall have two (2) district courts, one (1) located in the county seat town
33 of each judicial district and one (1) part time judge for each court.

34 (b) The salary status and grade for these district judgeships shall be
35 as follows:

36 (1) Osceola - Part time/2; and

1 (2) Blytheville - Part time/3.

2 (c) The judge of any district court in Mississippi County shall be
3 elected by the electors of the judicial district in which the court is
4 located.

5 (d) The jurisdiction of the district court in Mississippi County shall
6 be limited to the district in which the court is located.

7
8 SECTION 10. (a) Yell County, having two (2) judicial districts, shall
9 have one (1) district court with two (2) departments, one (1) department
10 located in the county seat town of each judicial district and both
11 departments to be served by one (1) part time judge.

12 (b) The salary status and grade for this district judgeship shall be
13 Part time/5.

14 (c) The judge of the district court in Yell County shall be elected
15 countywide.

16 (d) The district court in Yell County shall have countywide
17 jurisdiction.

18
19 SECTION 11. (a) Ashley County shall have one (1) district court with
20 two (2) departments, one (1) located in Crossett and one (1) located in
21 Hamburg and one (1) part time judge for each department.

22 (b) The salary status and grade for these district judgeships shall be
23 Part time/5.

24 (c) The judges of the district court in Ashley County shall be elected
25 countywide.

26 (d) The district court in Ashley County shall have countywide
27 jurisdiction.

28
29 SECTION 12. (a) Benton County shall have the following district
30 courts and judges:

31 (1) Rogers shall have one (1) district court and one (1) part
32 time district judge with a salary status and grade of Part time/2.

33 (2) Bentonville shall have one (1) district court and one (1)
34 part time district judge with a salary status and grade of Part time/1.

35 (3) Siloam Springs shall have one (1) district court and one
36 part time district judge with a salary status and grade of Part time/4.

1 (4) Benton County West shall have one (1) district court and one
2 part time district judge with a salary status and grade of Part time/4.

3 (5) The district court boundaries in Benton County shall be as
4 follows:

5 (A) District Court 1- Area:

6 (i) All of State Representative Districts 94, 95,
7 and 96 as drawn by the Arkansas Board of Apportionment in 2002;

8 (ii) That part of State Representative District 98
9 as drawn by the Arkansas Board of Apportionment in 2002 that is in Benton
10 County Quorum Court District 1 as established by the Benton County Election
11 Commission;

12 (iii) That part of Benton County Quorum Court
13 District 6 as established by the County Election Commission that is in State
14 Representative District 96 and 98 as drawn by the Arkansas Board of
15 Apportionment in 2002; and

16 (iv) All of the now existing Precincts 43, 44, and
17 49.

18 (B) District Court 2 - Area:

19 (i) All of Benton County Quorum Court Districts 7,
20 8, 9, and 10 as established by the Benton County Election Commission;

21 (ii) All of State Representative District 99 as
22 drawn by the Arkansas Board of Apportionment in 2002 except for the now
23 existing Precincts 43, 44, and 49; and

24 (iii) all of the now existing Precinct 45;

25 (C) District Court 3 - County West:

26 (i) All of Benton County Quorum Court District 11 as
27 established by the Benton County Election Commission;

28 (ii) All of the now existing Precincts 6, 18, and
29 19; and

30 (iii) That part of the now existing Precinct 15
31 lying North of Shady Grove Road, Garman Road, and Springtown Road; and

32 (D) District Court 4- Springs:

33 (i) All of State Representative District 97 as drawn
34 by the Arkansas Board of Apportionment in 2002; and

35 (ii) All of the now existing Precinct 7, 14, 16, and
36 17; that part of the now existing Precinct 15 lying South of Shady Grove

1 Road, Garman Road, and Springtown Road.

2 (b) The judge of any district court in Benton County shall be elected
3 by the qualified electors within the district in which the court is located.

4 (c) The jurisdiction of any district court in Benton County shall be
5 limited to the district in which the court is located.

6
7 SECTION 13. (a)(1) Chicot County shall have one (1) district court
8 with the following three (3) departments:

9 (A) One (1) located in Dermott;

10 (B) One (1) located in Eudora; and

11 (C) One (1) located in Lake Village.

12 (2)(A) Each department shall have one (1) part time judge.

13 (B) The salary status and grade for these district
14 judgeships shall be Part time/5.

15 (b) The judges of the district court in Chicot County shall be elected
16 countywide.

17 (c) The district court located in Chicot County shall have countywide
18 jurisdiction.

19
20 SECTION 14. (a)(1) Desha County shall have one (1) district court
21 with the following two (2) departments:

22 (A) One (1) located in Dumas; and

23 (B) One (1) located in McGehee.

24 (2)(A) Each department shall have one (1) part time judge.

25 (B) The salary status and grade for these district
26 judgeships shall be part time/4.

27 (b) The judges of the district court in Desha County shall be elected
28 countywide.

29 (c) The district court located in Desha County shall have countywide
30 jurisdiction.

31
32 SECTION 15. (a) Garland County shall have:

33 (1) One (1) district court with two (2) divisions and;

34 (2)(A) One (1) part time judge for each division.

35 (B) The salary status and grade for these district
36 judgeships shall be Part time/1.

1 (b) The judges of the district court in Garland County shall be
2 elected countywide.

3 (c) The district court located in Garland County shall have countywide
4 jurisdiction.

5
6 SECTION 16. (a) Jefferson County shall have:

7 (1) Two (2) district courts located in Pine Bluff; and

8 (2)(A) Two (2) full time district judges.

9 (B) The salary status and grade for these district
10 judgeships shall be Full time/B.

11 (b)(A) The judge of the Pine Bluff district court shall be elected by
12 the qualified electors of the city of Pine Bluff.

13 (B) The Pine Bluff district court shall have jurisdiction only
14 within the city limits of Pine Bluff, as now or in the future may be
15 constituted.

16 (c)(A) The judge of the Jefferson County district court shall be
17 elected countywide.

18 (B) The Jefferson County district court shall have countywide
19 jurisdiction.

20
21 SECTION 17. (a) Lonoke County, having two (2) judicial districts
22 shall have the following district courts and judges:

23 (1) The Northern District of Lonoke County shall have:

24 (A) One (1) district court located in Cabot; and

25 (B) One (1) part time judge with a salary status and grade
26 of Part time/5.

27 (2)(A) The Southern District of Lonoke County shall have one (1)
28 district court with three (3) departments as follows:

29 (i) One (1) department located in Lonoke to be
30 served by one (1) part time judge;

31 (ii) One (1) department located in England; and

32 (iii) One (1) department located in Carlisle with
33 both departments to be served by one (1) part time judge.

34 (B) Each judge shall have a salary status and grade of
35 Part time/5.

36 (b) The district court boundaries in Lonoke County shall be as

1 follows:

2 (1) The northern district shall consist of the townships of
3 Butler, Caroline, Cleveland, Eagle, Goodrum, Magness, Oak Grove, Prairie,
4 Totten, Ward, and York; and

5 (2) The southern district shall consist of the townships of
6 Carlisle, Crooked Creek, Dortch, Fletcher, Furlow, Gum Woods, Gray, Hamilton,
7 Indian Bayou, Isabel, Lafayette, and Lonoke.

8 (c) The judge of any district court in Lonoke County shall be elected
9 by the qualified electors of the judicial district in which the court is
10 located.

11 (d) The jurisdiction of the district court in Lonoke County shall be
12 limited to the district in which the court is located.

13
14 SECTION 18. (a)(1) Monroe County shall have one (1) district court
15 with two (2) departments as follows:

16 (A) One (1) located in Brinkley; and

17 (B) One (1) located in Clarendon.

18 (2)(A) One (1) part time judge for each department.

19 (B) The salary status and grade for these district
20 judgeships shall be as follows:

21 (i) Brinkley - Part time/5; and

22 (ii) Clarendon - Part time/6.

23 (C) The judges of the district court in Monroe County
24 shall be elected countywide.

25 (b) The district court located in Monroe County shall have countywide
26 jurisdiction.

27
28 SECTION 19. (a)(1) Ouachita County shall have two (2) district courts
29 as follows:

30 (A) One (1) located in Camden; and

31 (B) One (1) located in East Camden.

32 (2)(A) One (1) part time judge for each court.

33 (B) The salary status and grade for these district
34 judgeships shall be as follows:

35 (i) Camden - Part time/3; and

36 (ii) East Camden - Part time/6.

1 (b)(1) The judge of the district court in Camden shall be elected
2 countywide.

3 (2) The district court in Camden shall have countywide
4 jurisdiction.

5 (c)(1) The judge of the district court in East Camden shall be elected
6 by the qualified electors of the city of East Camden.

7 (2) The district court in East Camden shall have citywide
8 jurisdiction only.

9
10 SECTION 20. (a)(1) Phillips County shall have one (1) district court
11 with two (2) departments as follows:

12 (A) One (1) located in Helena; and

13 (B) One (1) located in West Helena.

14 (2)(A) One (1) part time judge for each department.

15 (B) The salary status and grade for these district
16 judgeships shall be Part time/5.

17 (b) The judges of the district court in Phillips County shall be
18 elected countywide.

19 (c) The district court in Phillips shall have countywide jurisdiction.

20
21 SECTION 21. (a)(1) Saline County shall have one (1) district court
22 with two (2) departments as follows:

23 (A) One (1) located in Benton with a full time judge; and

24 (B) One (1) located in Bryant with a part time judge.

25 (2) The salary status and grade for these district judgeships
26 shall be as follows:

27 (A) Benton - Full time/B; and

28 (B) Bryant - part time/3.

29 (b) The judges of the district court in Saline County shall be elected
30 countywide.

31 (c) The district court in Saline County shall have countywide
32 jurisdiction.

33
34 SECTION 22. (a) Washington County shall have the following district
35 courts and judges:

36 (1) Springdale shall have one (1) district court and one (1)

1 full time district judge with a salary status and grade of Full time/A.

2 (2) Fayetteville shall have one (1) district court and one (1)
3 part time judge with a salary status and grade of Part time/1.

4 (3) Elkins shall have one (1) district court and one (1) part
5 time judge with a salary status and grade of Part time/5.

6 (4) West Fork shall have one (1) district court and one (1) part
7 time judge with a salary status and grade of Part time/4.

8 (5) Prairie Grove shall have one (1) district court and one (1)
9 part time judge with a salary status and grade of Part time/5.

10 (6) The District Court boundaries in Washington County shall be
11 as follows:

12 (A) Springdale. The city limits of Springdale as now or
13 in the future constituted, the townships of Elm Springs, Tontitown, Harmon
14 and that portion of the township of Johnson that lies outside the city limits
15 of Fayetteville;

16 (B) Fayetteville. The city limits of Fayetteville as now
17 or in the future constituted;

18 (C) Elkins. The townships of Brush Creek, Springdale 1,
19 Prairie 1, Goshen, Wyman, Prairie 2, Richland, Richland Senate, White River,
20 and Durham;

21 (D) West Fork. The townships of Valley, West Fork,
22 Crawford, Reed, Winslow, Lee's Creek, Cove Creek, Boston, Vineyard, and that
23 portion of Greenland that lies outside the city limits of Fayetteville; and

24 (E) Prairie Grove. The townships of Prairie 4, Wheeler,
25 Litteral, Center House, Center, Prairie Grove Senate, Prairie Grove, Marrs
26 Hill, Weddington, Illinois, Rheas, Price, Starr Hill, Dutch Mills, Morrow,
27 and Cane Hill.

28 (b) The judge of any district court in Washington County shall be
29 elected by the qualified electors within the district in which the court is
30 located.

31 (c) The jurisdiction of any district court in Washington County shall
32 be limited to the district in which the court is located.

33
34 SECTION 23. (a)(1)(A) White County shall have one (1) district court
35 with two (2) departments as follows:

36 (i) One (1) located in Beebe, and

1 (ii) One (1) located in Searcy
2 (B) One (1) part time judge for each department.
3 (2) The salary status and grade for these district judgeships
4 shall be as follows:
5 (A) Searcy – Part time/2; and
6 (B) Beebe – Part time/5.
7 (b) The judges of the district court in White County shall be elected
8 countywide.
9 (c) The district court in White County shall have countywide
10 jurisdiction.

11
12 SECTION 24. (a)(1) Pope County and Crawford County each shall have
13 one (1) district court and one (1) full time judge.
14 (2) The salary status and grade for these district judgeships
15 shall be Full time/B.
16 (b) The judge of the district court in Pope County and Crawford County
17 shall be elected countywide.
18 (c) The district court in Pope County and Crawford County shall have
19 county wide jurisdiction.

20
21 SECTION 25. Pulaski County shall have the following district courts
22 and judges:
23 (1) Jacksonville shall have:
24 (A) One (1) district court with jurisdiction only within
25 the city limits of Jacksonville, as now or in the future may be constituted,
26 and
27 (B) One (1) full time judge with a salary status and
28 grade of Full time/B, to be elected by the qualified electors of the city of
29 Jacksonville.
30 (2) Little Rock shall have:
31 (A) Three (3) divisions of (1) district court with
32 jurisdiction only within the city limits of Little Rock, as now or in the
33 future may be constituted, and
34 (B) One (1) full time judge for each division with a
35 salary status and grade of Full time/A, to be elected by the qualified
36 electors of the city of Little Rock.

1 (3) North Little Rock shall have:

2 (A) Two (2) divisions of one (1) district court with
3 jurisdiction only within the city limits of North Little Rock, as now or in
4 the future may be constituted; and

5 (B) One (1) full time judge for each division with a
6 salary status and grade of Full time/B, to be elected by the qualified
7 electors of the city of North Little Rock.

8 (4) Maumelle shall have:

9 (A) One (1) district court with jurisdiction only within
10 the city limits of Maumelle, as now or in the future may be constituted, and

11 (B) One (1) part time judge with a salary status and grade
12 of Part time/4, to be elected by the qualified electors of the city of
13 Maumelle.

14 (5) Pulaski County shall have:

15 (A) Three (3) departments of one (1) district court with
16 county wide jurisdiction, one (1) full time judge and two (2) part time
17 judges to be elected countywide.

18 (B) The judge of the county department of the Pulaski
19 County district court shall be full time with a salary status and grade of
20 Full time/A.

21 (C) The judge of the Sherwood department of the Pulaski
22 County district court shall be part time with a salary status and grade of
23 Part time/2.

24 (D) The judge of the Wrightsville department of the
25 Pulaski County district court shall be part time with a salary status and
26 grade of Part time/6.

27
28 SECTION 26. (a) There is established for the District Courts of this
29 state a District Court Coordinator who shall be a private contractor and
30 receive professional fees in the amount of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000)
31 for fiscal year 2003-2004 and fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for fiscal
32 year 2004-2005 to be payable from the State Administration of Justice Fund.

33 (b) The contract will be approved by the Chief Justice of the Arkansas
34 Supreme Court and the President of the District Judges Council.

35
36 SECTION 27. (a) District courts shall be established under this

1 subchapter on the effective date of this act.
2 (b) The voters, at the 2004 nonpartisan judicial general election,
3 shall elect the number of district judges established under this subchapter,
4 to take office effective January 1, 2005.

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/s/ Salmon