

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

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

11                   (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

12                   (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
13 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the  
14 bill; or

15                   (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
16 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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