

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1815

5 By: Representatives Perry, F. Allen, Beaty Jr., Bentley, S. Berry, K. Brown, Ennett, Hudson, McCollum,
6 McGrew, S. Meeks, Milligan, Painter, Ray, J. Richardson, R. Scott Richardson, Richmond, Unger, D.
7 Whitaker
8 By: Senators D. Wallace, J. Dotson, K. Hammer
9

For An Act To Be Entitled

11 AN ACT TO AMEND THE STATE’S JURISDICTION OVER FEDERAL
12 LANDS; TO RETAIN JUVENILE JUSTICE JURISDICTION BY THE
13 STATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

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16 TO AMEND THE STATE’S JURISDICTION OVER
17 FEDERAL LANDS; AND TO RETAIN JUVENILE
18 JUSTICE JURISDICTION BY THE STATE.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings and intent.

24 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

25 (1) The United States Senate Committee on Armed Services, Sen.
26 Rep. No. 115-262, at 192 (2018), expressed concern about the ability of the
27 United States Department of Defense to “protect or provide justice to the
28 children of service members when [the children] are sexually assaulted by
29 other children” in the United States Department of Defense schools or on
30 military bases;

31 (2) The United States Deputy Secretary of Defense issued a
32 memorandum directing the secretaries of the military departments to seek
33 concurrent jurisdiction with states to remove barriers preventing access to
34 juvenile justice in areas of exclusive federal jurisdiction, including
35 military bases within the United States;

36 (3) The United States Department of Defense seeks to allow state



1 legislatures to extend concurrent jurisdiction over juvenile justice matters
 2 on military bases; and

3 (4) Amendment of the Arkansas Code's provisions related to the
 4 state's jurisdiction over juvenile justice matters is necessary to allow for
 5 investigation and adjudication over cases referred to this state by the
 6 United States Government.

7 (b) The General Assembly intends this act to:

8 (1) Extend the state's jurisdiction over juvenile justice to
 9 places of exclusive federal jurisdiction;

10 (2) Require the Legislative Council to approve extensions of
 11 concurrent jurisdiction when the General Assembly is not in session; and

12 (3) Require reciprocal agreements between the United States
 13 Department of Defense and the state, a county, or a municipal government to
 14 be filed with the county clerk where the reciprocal agreement was made and to
 15 be compiled by the Attorney General.

16

17 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 9-27-306, is amended to add an additional
 18 subsection to read as follows:

19 (g) When concurrent jurisdiction has been established under § 22-7-
 20 102, the court has exclusive jurisdiction over any case involving a juvenile
 21 who is alleged to be delinquent as the result of an act committed within the
 22 boundaries of a military installation that is a crime under state law.

23

24 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 22-7-101 is amended to read as follows:

25 22-7-101. Purchase of real property by United States – Limited cession
 26 of jurisdiction – Right to tax – Local agreements authorized.

27 (a) The State of Arkansas consents to the purchase by the United
 28 States of any site or ground for the erection of any armory, arsenal, fort,
 29 fortification, navy yard, customhouse, lighthouse, lock, dam, fish hatchery,
 30 or other public buildings of any kind.

31 (b) The jurisdiction of this state within and over all grounds
 32 purchased by the United States within the limits of this state is ceded to
 33 the United States, except that: ~~this cession of jurisdiction shall not~~
 34 ~~prevent execution of any process of this state, civil or criminal, upon any~~
 35 ~~person who may be on these grounds~~

36 (1) There shall be juvenile justice jurisdiction for the

1 investigation and adjudication of cases referred to this state by the United
2 States in exercising concurrent jurisdiction with the state; and

3 (2) In the event that the United States Government acquires
4 grounds expanding an existing installation, the legislative jurisdiction of
5 the newly acquired grounds shall have the same legislative jurisdiction as
6 the existing federal installation.

7 (c) This state releases and relinquishes its right to tax any site,
8 grounds, or real estate, and all improvements which may be there or erected
9 there during the time the United States remains the owner thereof.

10 (d)(1) Upon the establishment of exclusive or concurrent jurisdiction,
11 any state, county, or municipal authority may enter into a reciprocal
12 agreement, including without limitation a memorandum of understanding, with
13 any agency of the United States for the coordination and designation of
14 services and juridical responsibilities related to the respective federal
15 installation.

16 (2) A state, county, or municipal authority shall file an
17 agreement entered under subdivision (d)(1) of this section with the county
18 clerk in the county that the federal installation is located and include a
19 copy provided to and compiled by the Attorney General for each federal
20 installation.

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22 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 22-7-102(b), concerning transfer of
23 jurisdiction and transmission of notice among the branches of state
24 government, is amended to read as follows:

25 (b)~~(1)~~ The Governor shall transmit the notice, together with his or
26 her comments and recommendations, if any, and the comments and
27 recommendations of the Attorney General, if any, to the ~~next session of the~~
28 General Assembly if in session, or the Legislative Council when the General
29 Assembly is not in session, which shall be constitutionally competent to
30 consider the notice, comments, and recommendations.

31 ~~(2) Unless prior to the expiration of the legislative session to~~
32 ~~which the notice is transmitted the General Assembly has adopted an act~~
33 ~~approving the transfer of legislative jurisdiction as proposed in the notice,~~
34 ~~the transfer shall not be effective.~~

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