

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

A Bill

SENATE BILL 234

4
5 By: Senator Dees
6 By: Representative Dalby

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT-
10 WEST; TO CREATE AN ADDITIONAL CIRCUIT JUDGESHIP; TO
11 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

15 CONCERNING THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL
16 DISTRICT-WEST; TO CREATE AN ADDITIONAL
17 CIRCUIT JUDGESHIP; AND TO DECLARE AN
18 EMERGENCY.

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

21
22 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings and intent.

23 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

24 (1) The Judicial Resources Assessment Committee has reviewed the
25 caseloads of the various judicial districts; and

26 (2) One (1) additional circuit judgeship is needed in the
27 Nineteenth Judicial District-West to ensure the smooth, efficient, and timely
28 administration of justice.

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

30 (1) Authorize the establishment of one (1) additional circuit
31 judgeship in the Nineteenth Judicial District-West;

32 (2) Articulate the applicable election process of the additional
33 circuit judge; and

34 (3) Identify various resources that will be available for the
35 additional circuit judge.

36



1 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 16-13-3002, concerning judges in the
2 Nineteenth Judicial District, is amended to add an additional subsection to
3 read as follows:

4 (j)(1) Effective April 1, 2025, there is created in the Nineteenth
5 Judicial District-West an additional circuit judgeship that shall have
6 jurisdiction in law, equity, probate, and juvenile matters.

7 (2)(A) The additional circuit judge shall be elected by the
8 qualified voters of the district, shall satisfy the same qualifications for
9 holding office, and shall receive the same salary, expenses, and other
10 allowances as provided by law for judges of the circuit courts.

11 (B) The circuit judge shall serve for elected terms of six
12 (6) years.

13 (3) The county that composes the Nineteenth Judicial District-
14 West shall provide courtroom and office facilities and supplies for the newly
15 created circuit judgeship created by subdivision (j)(1) of this section,
16 which shall be paid out of the county treasury in the same manner as other
17 demands against the county and out of funds appropriated by the quorum court
18 of the county for these purposes.

19 (4) There shall be provided for the circuit judgeship created by
20 subdivision (j)(1) of this section a court reporter and a trial court
21 administrator whose salaries shall be fixed and paid in the manner provided
22 by law for court reporters and trial court administrators of the circuit
23 courts of this state.

24
25 SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Temporary language.

26 For the circuit judgeship created in the Nineteenth Judicial District-
27 West, the vacancy shall be filled by election at the 2026 nonpartisan
28 judicial general election, with the elected circuit judge to take office on
29 January 1, 2027.

30
31 SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
32 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Judicial Resources
33 Assessment Committee has reviewed the caseloads of the various judicial
34 districts; that the caseload of the Nineteenth Judicial District-West
35 necessitates an additional circuit judge; and that this act is necessary to
36 ensure the smooth, efficient, and timely administration of justice in the

1 affected county. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act,
2 being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety,
3 shall become effective on April 1, 2025.

4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36