1   State of Arkansas   *As Engrossed: H3/4/15*
2   90th General Assembly   A Bill
3   Regular Session, 2015   HOUSE BILL 1532
4
5   By: Representatives Vines, Richey, B. Overbey, Ratliff, Neal, *Bennett*
6   By: Senators B. Sample, E. Cheatham, S. Flowers, Burnett, J. Hutchinson, J. Woods
7
8   **For An Act To Be Entitled**
9   AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE DISTRICT COURT SYSTEM;
10   AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11
12
13   **Subtitle**
14   CONCERNING THE STATE DISTRICT COURT
15   SYSTEM.
16
17
18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
19
20   SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 16-17-1110(9), concerning the effective
21 date the Eighteenth Judicial District for state district courts shall be
22 composed of Mississippi County, is amended to read as follows:
23   (9)(A) ~~The Eighteenth District is composed of Mississippi~~
24 ~~County, Chickasawba District.~~
25   ~~(B)~~ Beginning January 1, ~~2021~~ 2017, the Eighteenth
26 District shall be composed of Mississippi County.
27   ~~(C)~~(B) The Eighteenth District has ~~five (5)~~ seven (7)
28 departments as follows:
29   (i)   One (1) located in Blytheville;
30   (ii) One (1) located in Manila;
31   (iii) One (1) located in Leachville;
32   (iv) One (1) located in Gosnell; ~~and~~
33   (v)   One (1) located in Dell~~.~~;
34   (vi) One (1) located in Osceola; and
35   (vii) One (1) located in Joiner.
36   ~~(D) Beginning January 1, 2021, the Eighteenth District~~

1   ~~shall have two (2) additional departments as follows:~~

2   ~~(i) One (1) located in Osceola; and~~

3   ~~(ii) One (1) located in Joiner.~~

4   ~~(E)~~(C)   The Eighteenth District is served by ~~one (1) state~~

5   ~~district court judge until January 1, 2021, when the district shall be served~~

6   ~~by~~ two (2) state district court judges.

7   ~~(F)~~(D)   The Eighteenth District judges are elected

8   districtwide.

9   ~~(G)~~(E)   The Eighteenth District court has district-wide

10   jurisdiction;

11

12   SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 16-17-1112 is amended to read as follows:

13   16-17-1112. Reorganization of local district courts to state district

14   courts as of January 1, 2017.

15   (a)(1) Beginning January 1, 2017, the following cities and counties

16   that are currently served by local district courts pursuant to § 16-17-901 et

17   seq. shall be reorganized as state district courts and served by a state

18   district court judge.

19   (2)   The new state district court judgeships created by this

20   section shall become effective January 1, 2017, and shall be placed on the

21   ballot to be elected in the 2016 nonpartisan judicial election from the newly

22   constructed judicial district.

23   (3)   The cities and counties which were previously served by

24   local district courts and will be served by state district courts shall

25   comply with the cost-sharing requirements established in § 16-17-1106,

26   effective January 1, 2017.

27   (b)(1)(A) The Second District shall be composed of Washington County

28   and the city limits of Springdale as of January 1, 2011, including that

29   portion of the City of Springdale which extends into Benton County.

30   (B)   The Second District shall have ten (10) departments as

31   follows:

32   (i)   One (1) located in Springdale;

33   (ii) One (1) located in Elm Springs;

34   (iii) One (1) located in Johnson;

35   (iv) One (1) located in Fayetteville;

36   (v)   One (1) located in Elkins;

1   (vi)   One (1) located in West Fork;

2   (vii)   One (1) located in Greenland;

3   (viii)   One (1) located in Prairie Grove;

4   (ix)   One (1) located in Lincoln; and

5   (x)   One (1) located in Farmington.

6   (C)   The Second District shall be served by four (4) state

7   district court judges;

8   (i)   One (1) judgeship first to be elected in 2016

9   and to become effective January 1, 2017, shall be designated as Division 1;

10   (ii)   One (1) judgeship first to be elected in 2016

11   and to become effective January 1, 2017, shall be designated as Division 2;

12   (iii)   One (1) judgeship first to be elected in 2016

13   and to become effective January 1, 2017, shall be designated as Division 3;

14   and

15   (iv)   One (1) judgeship first to be elected in 2016

16   and to become effective January 1, 2017, shall be designated as Division 4.

17   (D)   The presiding judge of the departments under

18   subdivision (b)(3)(B) of this section shall be determined by the mutual

19   agreement of the state district court judges.

20   (E)   The Second District judges shall be elected

21   districtwide.

22   (F)   The Second District court shall have district-wide

23   jurisdiction.

24   (2)(A)   The Third District shall be composed of the counties of

25   Carroll and Madison.

26   (B)   The Third District shall have three (3) departments as

27   follows:

28   (i)   One (1) located in Berryville;

29   (ii)   One (1) located in Eureka Springs; and

30   (iii)   One (1) located in Huntsville.

31   (C)   The Third District shall be served by one (1) state

32   district court judge.

33   (D)   The Third District judge shall be elected

34   districtwide.

35   (E)   The Third District court shall have district-wide

36   jurisdiction.

1   (3)(A) The Seventh District shall be composed of the counties of
2   Franklin and Johnson.
3   (B) The Seventh District shall have six (6) departments as
4   follows:
5   (i) One (1) located in Charleston;
6   (ii) One (1) located in Ozark;
7   (iii) One (1) located in Altus;
8   (iv) One (1) located in Clarksville;
9   (v) One (1) located in Coal Hill; and
10   (vi) One (1) located in Lamar.
11   (C) The Seventh District shall be served by one (1) state
12   district court judge.
13   (D) The Seventh District judge shall be elected
14   districtwide.
15   (E) The Seventh District court shall have district-wide
16   jurisdiction.
17   (4)(A)(3)(A) The Twenty-Seventh District shall be composed of
18   the counties of Desha and Chicot.
19   (B) The Twenty-Seventh District shall have five (5)
20   departments as follows:
21   (i) One (1) located in Dermott;
22   (ii) One (1) located in Eudora;
23   (iii) One (1) located in Lake Village;
24   (iv) One (1) located in Dumas; and
25   (v) One (1) located in McGehee.
26   (C) The Twenty-Seventh District shall be served by one (1)
27   state district court judge.
28   (D) The Twenty-Seventh District judge shall be elected
29   districtwide.
30   (E) The Twenty-Seventh District court shall have district-
31   wide jurisdiction.
32   (5)(A) The Thirtieth District shall be composed of Lonoke
33   County.
34   (B) The Thirtieth District shall have seven (7)
35   departments as follows:
36   (i) One (1) located in Cabot;

1   (ii) One (1) located in Ward;

2   (iii) One (1) located in Austin;

3   (iv) One (1) located in Lonoke;

4   (v) One (1) located in England;

5   (vi) One (1) located in Carlisle; and

6   (vii) One (1) located in Allport.

7   (C) The Thirtieth District shall be served by one (1)

8   state district court judge.

9   (D) The Thirtieth District judge shall be elected

10   districtwide.

11   (E) The Thirtieth District court shall have district-wide

12   jurisdiction.

13   (6)(A) The Forty-First District shall be composed of Garland

14   County.

15   (B) The Forty-First District shall have three (3)

16   departments as follows:

17   (i) Two (2) located in Hot Springs; and

18   (ii) One (1) located in Mountain Pine.

19   (C) The Forty-First District shall be served by two (2)

20   state district court judges.

21   (D) The Forty-First District judges shall be elected

22   districtwide.

23   (E) The Forty-First District court shall have district-

24   wide jurisdiction.

25   (7)(A)(4)(A) The Thirty-Third District shall be composed of the

26   counties of Grant and Hot Spring.

27   (B) The Thirty-Third District shall have five (5)

28   departments as follows:

29   (i) One (1) located in Sheridan;

30   (ii) One (1) located in Malvern;

31   (iii) One (1) located in Donaldson;

32   (iv) One (1) located in Friendship; and

33   (v) One (1) located in Rockport.

34   (C) The Thirty-Third District shall be served by one (1)

35   state district court judge.

36   (D) The Thirty-Third District judge shall be elected

1   districtwide.

2   (E)   The Thirty-Third District court shall have district-

3   wide jurisdiction.

4   *(5)(A)*   The Twenty-Second District shall be composed of Lee and

5   Phillips counties.

6   (B)   The Twenty-Second District shall have five (5)

7   departments as follows:

8   (i)   One (1) located in Marianna;

9   (ii)   One (1) located in Helena-West Helena;

10   (iii) One (1) located in Lake View;

11   (iv)   One (1) located in Elaine; and

12   (v)   One (1) located in Marvell.

13   (C)   The Twenty-Second District shall be served by one (1)

14   state district court judge.

15   (D) The Twenty-Second District judge shall be elected

16   districtwide.

17   (E)   The Twenty-Second District courts shall have district-

18   wide jurisdiction.

19   *(6)(A)*   The Twenty-Sixth District shall be composed of Ashley

20   County.

21   (B)   The Twenty-Sixth District shall have two (2)

22   departments as follows:

23   (i)   One (1) located in Crossett; and

24   (ii)   One (1) located in Hamburg.

25   (C)   The Twenty-Sixth District shall be served by one (1)

26   state district court judge.

27   (D) The Twenty-Sixth District judge shall be elected

28   districtwide.

29   (E)   The Twenty-Sixth District courts shall have district-

30   wide jurisdiction; and

31   *(7)(A)*   The Twenty-Eighth District shall be composed of Bradley

32   and Drew counties.

33   (B)   The Twenty-Eighth District shall have two (2)

34   departments as follows:

35   (i)   One (1) located in Monticello; and

36   (ii)   One (1) located in Warren.

1   (C)   The Twenty-Eighth District shall be served by one (1)

2   state district court judge.

3   (D) The Twenty-Eighth District judge shall be elected

4   districtwide.

5   (E)   The Twenty-Eighth District courts shall have district-

6   wide jurisdiction.

7

8   SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 16, Chapter 17, Subchapter 11, is

9   amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

10   16-17-1113. Reorganization of local district courts to state district

11   courts as of January 1, 2021.

12   (a)(1) Beginning January 1, 2021, the following cities and counties

13   that are currently served by local district courts pursuant to § 16-17-901 et

14   seq. shall be reorganized as state district courts and served by state

15   district court judges as assigned.

16   (2)   The new state district court judgeships created by this

17   section shall become effective January 1, 2021, and shall be placed on the

18   ballot to be elected in the 2020 nonpartisan judicial election from the newly

19   constructed state district court district.

20   (3)   The cities and counties that were previously served by local

21   district courts and will be served by state district courts shall comply with

22   the cost-sharing requirements established in § 16-17-1106, effective January

23   1, 2021.

24   (b)(1)   The Seventh Judicial District shall be composed of the counties

25   of Franklin and Johnson.

26   (2)   The Seventh District shall have six (6) departments as

27   follows:

28   (A)   One (1) located in Charleston;

29   (B)   One (1) located in Ozark;

30   (C)   One (1) located in Altus;

31   (D)   One (1) located in Clarksville;

32   (E)   One (1) located in Coal Hill; and

33   (F)   One (1) located in Lamar.

34   (3)   The Seventh Judicial District shall be served by one (1)

35   state district court judge.

36   (4)   The Seventh Judicial District judge shall be elected

1   districtwide.

2   (5)   The Seventh Judicial District court shall have district-wide

3   jurisdiction.

4   (c)(1)   The Eleventh Judicial District shall be composed of the

5   counties of Randolph, Sharp, and Lawrence.

6   (2)   The Eleventh District shall have seven (7) departments as

7   follows:

8   (A)   One (1) located in Pocahontas;

9   (B)   One (1) located in Ash Flat;

10   (C)   One (1) located in Cherokee Village;

11   (D)   One (1) located in Walnut Ridge;

12   (E)   One (1) located in Hoxie;

13   (F)   One (1) located in Black Rock; and

14   (G)   One (1) located in Portia.

15   (3)   The Eleventh Judicial District shall be served by two (2)

16   state district court judges.

17   (4)   The Eleventh Judicial District judges shall be elected

18   districtwide.

19   (5)   The Eleventh Judicial District courts shall have district-

20   wide jurisdiction.

21   (d)(1)   The Twelfth Judicial District shall be composed of the counties

22   of Logan, Yell, and Conway.

23   (2)   The Twelfth District shall have eight (8) departments as

24   follows:

25   (A)   One (1) located in Morrilton;

26   (B)   One (1) located in Menifee;

27   (C)   One (1) located in Oppelo;

28   (D)   One (1) located in Paris;

29   (E)   One (1) located in Booneville;

30   (F)   One (1) located in Magazine;

31   (G)   One (1) located in Danville; and

32   (H)   One (1) located in Dardanelle.

33   (3)   The Twelfth Judicial District shall be served by one (1)

34   state district court judge.

35   (4)   The Twelfth Judicial District judge shall be elected

36   districtwide.

1   (5)   The Twelfth Judicial District court shall have district-wide
2   jurisdiction.
3   (e)(1) The Thirteenth District is composed of the counties of Stone and
4   Cleburne.
5   (2) The Thirteenth District has five (5) departments as follows:
6   (A) One (1) located in Heber Springs;
7   (B) One (1) located in Greers Ferry;
8   (C) One (1) located in Concord;
9   (D) One (1) located in Quitman; and
10   (E) One (1) located in Mountain View.
11   (3) The Thirteenth District is served by one (1) state district
12   court judge.
13   (4) The Thirteenth District judge is elected districtwide.
14   (5) The Thirteenth District court has district-wide jurisdiction.
15   (f)(1) The Fourteenth District is composed of the counties of
16   Independence, Fulton, and Izard.
17   (2) The Fourteenth District has six (6) departments as follows:
18   (A) One (1) located in Batesville;
19   (B) One (1) located in Melbourne;
20   (C) One (1) located in Calico Rock;
21   (D) One (1) located in Horseshoe Bend;
22   (E) One (1) located in Salem; and
23   (F) One (1) located in Mammoth Spring.
24   (3) The Fourteenth District is served by one (1) state district
25   court judge.
26   (4) The Fourteenth District judge is elected districtwide.
27   (5) The Fourteenth District court has district-wide jurisdiction.
28   (g)(1) The Fifteenth Judicial District shall be composed of the
29   counties of Jackson and Woodruff.
30   (2) The Fifteenth District shall have eight (8) departments as
31   follows:
32   (A) One (1) located in Newport;
33   (B) One (1) located in Diaz;
34   (C) One (1) located in Swifton;
35   (D) One (1) located in Tuckerman;
36   (E) One (1) located in Augusta;

1   (F)   One (1) located in Cotton Plant;

2   (G)   One (1) located in McCrory; and

3   (H)   One (1) located in Patterson.

4   (3)   The Fifteenth Judicial District shall be served by one (1)

5 state district court judge.

6   (4)   The Fifteenth Judicial District judge shall be elected

7 districtwide.

8   (5)   The Fifteenth Judicial District court shall have district-

9 wide jurisdiction.

10   (h)(1)   The Sixteenth Judicial District shall be composed of the

11 counties of Monroe and Arkansas.

12   (2)   The Sixteenth District shall have seven (7) departments as

13 follows:

14   (A)   One (1) located in Stuttgart;

15   (B)   One (1) located in DeWitt;

16   (C)   One (1) located in Gillett;

17   (D)   One (1) located in St. Charles;

18   (E)   One (1) located in Brinkley;

19   (F)   One (1) located in Clarendon; and

20   (G)   One (1) located in Holly Grove.

21   (3)   The Sixteenth Judicial District shall be served by one (1)

22 state district court judge.

23   (4)   The Sixteenth Judicial District judge shall be elected

24 districtwide.

25   (5)   The Sixteenth Judicial District court shall have district-

26 wide jurisdiction.

27   (i)(1) The Seventeenth District is composed of the counties of Clay and

28 Greene.

29   (2) The Seventeenth District has five (5) departments as follows:

30   (A) One (1) located in Paragould;

31   (B) One (1) located in Marmaduke;

32   (C) One (1) located in Corning;

33   (D) One (1) located in Piggott; and

34   (E) One (1) located in Rector.

35   (3) The Seventeenth District is served by one (1) state district

36 court judge.

1   (4) The Seventeenth District judge is elected districtwide.

2   (5) The Seventeenth District court has district-wide

3 jurisdiction.

4   (j)(1) The Twenty-Fourth Judicial District shall be composed of the

5 counties of Scott, Polk, and Montgomery.

6   (2) The Twenty-Fourth Judicial District shall have three (3)

7 departments as follows:

8   (A) One (1) located in Waldron;

9   (B) One (1) located in Mena; and

10   (C) One (1) located in Mt. Ida.

11   (3) The Twenty-Fourth Judicial District shall be served by one

12 (1) state district court judge.

13   (4) The Twenty-Fourth Judicial District judge shall be elected

14 districtwide.

15   (5) The Twenty-Fourth Judicial District courts shall have

16 district-wide jurisdiction.

17   (k)(1) The Twenty-Fifth District is composed of the counties of St.

18 Francis and Cross.

19   (2) The Twenty-Fifth District has six (6) departments as

20 follows:

21   (A) One (1) located in Forrest City;

22   (B) One (1) located in Madison;

23   (C) One (1) located in Palestine;

24   (D) One (1) located in Wynne;

25   (E) One (1) located in Cherry Valley; and

26   (F) One (1) located in Parkin.

27   (3) The Twenty-Fifth District is served by one (1) state

28 district court judge.

29   (4) The Twenty-Fifth District judge is elected districtwide.

30   (5) The Twenty-Fifth District court has district-wide

31 jurisdiction.

32   *(l)(1) The Thirtieth District shall be composed of Lonoke County.*

33   *(2) The Thirtieth District shall have six (6) departments as*

34 *follows:*

35   *(A) One (1) located in Cabot;*

36   *(B) One (1) located in Ward;*

1   *(C) One (1) located in Austin;*

2   *(D) One (1) located in Lonoke;*

3   *(E) One (1) located in England; and*

4   *(F) One (1) located in Carlisle.*

5   *(3) The Thirtieth District shall be served by one (1) state*

6 *district court judge.*

7   *(4) The Thirtieth District judge shall be elected districtwide.*

8   *(5) The Thirtieth District court shall have district-wide*

9 *jurisdiction.*

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11   *(m)(1) The Thirty-First District is composed of the counties of* Pulaski

12 and Perry.

13   (2) The Thirty-First District has twelve (12) departments as

14 follows:

15   (A) One (1) located in Jacksonville, to be known as

16 Jacksonville District Court;

17   (B) Four (4) located in Little Rock, to be known as:

18   (i) Little Rock District Court — First Division;

19   (ii) Little Rock District Court — Second Division;

20   (iii) Little Rock District Court — Third Division;

21 and

22   (iv) Pulaski County District Court;

23   (C) One (1) located in Maumelle, to be known as Maumelle

24 District Court;

25   (D) Two (2) located in North Little Rock, to be known as:

26   (i) North Little Rock District Court — First

27 Division; and

28   (ii) North Little Rock District Court — Second

29 Division;

30   (E) One (1) located in Sherwood, to be known as Sherwood

31 District Court;

32   (F) One (1) located in Wrightsville, to be known as

33 Wrightsville District Court;

34   (G) One (1) located in Cammack Village, to be known as

35 Cammack Village District Court; and

36   (H) One (1) located in Perryville, to be known as

1   Perryville District Court.
2   (3)   The Thirty-First District shall be served by eight (8) state
3   district judges. All the following judges shall be elected districtwide and
4   shall have district-wide jurisdiction:
5   (A)   The Jacksonville District Court and the Maumelle
6   District Court shall be served by one (1) judge;
7   (B)   The Little Rock District Court — First Division shall
8   be served by one (1) judge;
9   (C)   The Little Rock District Court — Second Division shall
10 be served by one (1) judge;
11   (D)   The Little Rock District Court — Third Division, the
12 Wrightsville District Court, and the Cammack Village District Court shall be
13 served by one (1) judge;
14   (E)   The North Little Rock District Court — First Division
15 shall be served by one (1) judge;
16   (F)   The North Little Rock District Court — Second Division
17 shall be served by one (1) judge;
18   (G)   The Pulaski County District Court shall be served by
19 one (1) judge;
20   (H)   The Sherwood District Court shall be served by one (1)
21 judge; and
22   (I)   The Perryville District Court shall be served by one
23 (1) of the district court judges listed under subdivision *(m)(3)(A)* through
24 (H).
25   *(n)(1)*   The Thirty-Sixth Judicial District shall be composed of the
26 counties of Little River, Sevier, and Howard.
27   (2)   The Thirty-Sixth Judicial District shall have five (5)
28 departments as follows:
29   (A)   One (1) located in Ashdown;
30   (B)   One (1) located in Foreman;
31   (C)   One (1) located in Winthrop;
32   (D)   One (1) located in De Queen; and
33   (E)   One (1) located in Nashville.
34   (3)   The Thirty-Sixth Judicial District shall be served by one
35 (1) state district court judge.
36   *(4)*   The Thirty-Sixth Judicial District judge shall be elected

1   districtwide.
2   (5)   The Thirty-Sixth Judicial District courts shall have
3   district-wide jurisdiction.
4   (o)(1)   The Thirty-Ninth Judicial District shall be composed of the
5   counties of Ouachita and Columbia.
6   (2)   The Thirty-Ninth Judicial District shall have seven (7)
7   departments as follows:
8   (A)   One (1) located in Magnolia;
9   (B)   One (1) located in Waldo;
10   (C)   One (1) located in Camden;
11   (D)   One (1) located in East Camden;
12   (E)   One (1) located in Bearden;
13   (F)   One (1) located in Chidester; and
14   (G)   One (1) located in Stephens.
15   (3)   The Thirty-Ninth Judicial District shall be served by one
16   (1) state district court judge.
17   (4)   The Thirty-Ninth Judicial District judge shall be elected
18   districtwide.
19   (5)   The Thirty-Ninth Judicial District court shall have
20   district-wide jurisdiction.
21   (p)(1) The Fortieth District shall be composed of the counties of Clark
22   and Pike.
23   (2) The Fortieth District shall have four (4) departments as
24   follows:
25   (A) One (1) located in Arkadelphia;
26   (B) One (1) located in Amity;
27   (C) One (1) located in Caddo Valley;
28   (D) One (1) located in Gurdon;
29   (E) One (1) located in Murfreesboro; and
30   (F) One (1) located in Glenwood.
31   (3) The Fortieth District shall be served by one (1) state
32   district court judge.
33   (4) The Fortieth District judge shall be elected districtwide.
34   (5) The Fortieth District court shall have district-wide
35   jurisdiction.
36   (q)(1) The Forty-First Judicial District shall be composed of Garland

1   County.
2   (2)   The Forty-First District shall have three (3) departments as
3   follows:
4   (A)   Two (2) located in Hot Springs; and
5   (B)   One (1) located in Mountain Pine.
6   (3)   The Forty-First Judicial District shall be served by two (2)
7   state district court judges.
8   (4)   The Forty-First Judicial District judges shall be elected
9   districtwide.
10   (5)   The Forty-First Judicial District courts shall have
11   district-wide jurisdiction.
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13   /s/Vines
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