

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 373

5 By: Senator Caldwell  
6 By: Representative J. Moore  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REORGANIZATION OF LOCAL  
10 DISTRICT COURTS TO CREATE THE SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL  
11 DISTRICT OF THE STATE DISTRICT COURT SYSTEM; TO ADD  
12 AN ADDITIONAL JUDGESHIP TO THE SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL  
13 DISTRICT OF THE STATE DISTRICT COURT SYSTEM; AND FOR  
14 OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

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18 CONCERNING THE REORGANIZATION OF LOCAL  
19 DISTRICT COURTS TO CREATE THE SIXTEENTH  
20 JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE DISTRICT  
21 COURT SYSTEM.  
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 16-17-904 is repealed.

27 ~~16-17-904. Arkansas County District Courts.~~

28 ~~(a) Arkansas County shall have the following district courts and~~  
29 ~~judges:~~

30 ~~(1) The Northern District shall have:~~

31 ~~(A) One (1) district court located in Stuttgart; and~~

32 ~~(B) One (1) district judge; and~~

33 ~~(2)(A) The Southern District shall have one (1) district court~~  
34 ~~with three (3) departments:~~

35 ~~(i) One (1) located in DeWitt;~~

36 ~~(ii) One (1) located in Gillett; and~~





1 counties of Monroe and Arkansas.

2 (2) The Sixteenth Judicial District shall have seven (7)  
3 departments as follows:

- 4 (A) One (1) located in Stuttgart;
- 5 (B) One (1) located in ~~De Witt~~ DeWitt;
- 6 (C) One (1) located in Gillett;
- 7 (D) One (1) located in St. Charles;
- 8 (E) One (1) located in Brinkley;
- 9 (F) One (1) located in Clarendon; and
- 10 (G) One (1) located in Holly Grove.

11 (3)(A) The Sixteenth Judicial District shall be served by ~~one~~  
12 ~~(1) two~~ (2) state district court ~~judge~~ judges.

13 (B) One (1) judgeship shall be designated as Division 1  
14 and one (1) judgeship shall be designated as Division 2.

15 (4) The assignment of judges to departments under subdivision  
16 (c)(2) of this section shall be determined by the mutual agreement of the  
17 state district court judges of the Sixteenth Judicial District.

18 ~~(4)~~(5) The Sixteenth Judicial District ~~judge~~ judges shall be  
19 elected districtwide.

20 ~~(5)~~(6) The Sixteenth Judicial District court shall have  
21 districtwide jurisdiction.

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23 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. Sections 1 and 2 of this act are effective  
24 on January 1, 2025.

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29 **APPROVED: 4/11/23**