1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019

A Bill

SENATE BILL 570

5 By: Senator Hester

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL CIRCUIT JUDGESHIPS
9 FOR CERTAIN JUDICIAL DISTRICTS; TO MAKE TECHNICAL
10 CORRECTIONS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER
11 PURPOSES.

Subtitle

15 TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL CIRCUIT
16 JUDGESHIPS FOR CERTAIN JUDICIAL
17 DISTRICTS.

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

22   SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 16-13-1003, concerning the Second Judicial
23 District, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:
24   (f) There is created in the Second Judicial District an additional
25 circuit judgeship that shall have jurisdiction in law, equity, probate, and
26 juvenile matters.

28   SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 16-13-1203, concerning the Fourth Judicial
29 District, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:
30   (c) There is created in the Fourth Judicial District an additional
31 circuit judgeship that shall have jurisdiction in law, equity, probate, and
32 juvenile matters.

34   SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 16-13-1403, concerning the circuit court of
35 the Sixth Judicial Circuit, is amended to add an additional subsection to
36 read as follows:

1   (e)(1) There is created in the Sixth Judicial District an additional

2 circuit judgeship that shall have jurisdiction in law, equity, probate, and

3 juvenile matters.

4   (2) The judge of the additional circuit court judgeship created

5 under this subsection shall be a resident of Perry County.

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7   SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 16-13-2003, concerning the Twelfth Judicial

8 District, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

9   (e) There is created in the Twelfth Judicial District an additional

10 circuit judgeship that shall have jurisdiction in law, equity, probate, and

11 juvenile matters.

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13   SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 16-13-2903 is amended to read as follows:

14   16-13-2903. ~~Election of~~ Circuit court judges.

15   (a) The qualified electors of the Twenty-first Judicial District shall

16 elect two (2) ~~circuit-chancery~~ circuit judges.

17   (b) There is created in the Twenty-first Judicial District an

18 additional circuit judgeship that shall have jurisdiction in law, equity,

19 probate, and juvenile matters.

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21   SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 16-13-3002, concerning the Nineteenth

22 Judicial District-West, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as

23 follows:

24   (i) There is created in the Nineteenth Judicial District-West an

25 additional circuit judgeship that shall have jurisdiction in law, equity,

26 probate, and juvenile matters.

27

28   SECTION 7. DO NOT CODIFY. Temporary legislation.

29   (a) For all circuit judgeships except for the Sixth Judicial District

30 under Section 3 of this act, the Governor shall appoint qualified persons who

31 are residents of the judicial districts that are the subject of this act to

32 temporarily fill the newly created circuit court judgeships, and each of the

33 appointed persons shall serve until January 1, 2021, or until a successor has

34 been elected and qualified.

35   (b)(1) The qualified electors of the applicable judicial districts

36 shall elect the additional circuit court judges whose judgeships are created

1   by this act at the 2020 preferential primary election, to take office on

2   January 1, 2021.

3   (2)   The additional circuit court judges shall be elected from

4   within the judicial district, shall satisfy the same qualifications for

5   holding office, and shall receive the same salary, expenses, and other

6   allowances as provided by existing law for judges of the circuit courts.

7   (3)   The circuit court judges shall serve for elected terms of

8   six (6) years.

9   (c)   The counties receiving a new circuit court judgeship shall provide

10   courtroom and office facilities and supplies, which shall be paid for as

11   provided by law.

12

13   SECTION 8.   DO NOT CODIFY.   TEMPORARY LANGUAGE.

14   (a)   For the circuit judgeship created for the Sixth Judicial District

15   under Section 3 of this act, the Governor shall appoint a qualified person

16   who is a resident of Perry County to temporarily fill the newly created

17   circuit court judgeship, and the appointed person shall serve until January

18   1, 2021, or until a successor has been elected and qualified.

19   (b)(1)   The qualified electors of the Sixth Judicial District shall

20   elect the additional circuit court judge created by this act at the 2020

21   preferential primary election, to take office on January 1, 2021.

22   (2)   The additional circuit court judge shall be a resident of

23   Perry County, shall satisfy the same qualifications for holding office, and

24   shall receive the same salary, expenses, and other allowances as provided by

25   existing law for judges of the circuit courts.

26   (3)   The circuit court judge shall serve for an elected term of

27   six (6) years.

28   (c)   The counties of the Sixth Judicial District shall provide

29   courtroom and office facilities and supplies, a court reporter, and a trial

30   court administrative assistant for the circuit court judge, which shall be

31   paid for as provided by law.

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33   SECTION 9.   EMERGENCY CLAUSE.   It is found and determined by the

34   General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the judicial districts under

35   this act have an immediate need for additional circuit court judges due to

36   the number of cases pending in the judicial district.   Therefore, an

1 emergency is declared to exist, and this act being necessary for the

2 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective

3 on July 1, 2019.

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