

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1697

5 By: Representatives M. Gray, Tosh, Ballinger, Barker, Beck, Brown, Davis, C. Douglas, L. Fite, Gates,
6 Gazaway, Henderson, G. Hodges, Hollowell, Ladyman, Lemons, Lundstrum, Payton, Pilkington,
7 Rushing, Rye, B. Smith, Sullivan
8 By: Senator Hester
9

For An Act To Be Entitled

11 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING THE DATES OF
12 THE GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION AND PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY
13 ELECTION; TO AMEND THE TIME PERIOD FOR FILING AS A
14 CANDIDATE FOR A PRIMARY ELECTION; TO AMEND ARKANSAS
15 LAW CONCERNING THE TIME FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO
16 MEET IN FISCAL SESSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
17
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Subtitle

19 TO AMEND THE DATES OF THE GENERAL PRIMARY
20 ELECTION AND PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY
21 ELECTION; TO AMEND THE TIME PERIOD FOR
22 FILING AS A CANDIDATE FOR A PRIMARY
23 ELECTION; AND TO AMEND THE TIME FOR THE
24 FISCAL SESSION.
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28 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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30 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-7-203(a)-(c), concerning the dates of the
31 general primary election and preferential primary election, are amended to
32 read as follows:

33 (a) The general primary election shall be held on the ~~second Tuesday~~
34 ~~in June preceding~~ fourth Tuesday in March before the general election.

35 (b) The preferential primary election shall be held on the Tuesday
36 three (3) weeks before the general primary election.



1 (c)(1) The party filing period shall be a one-week period ~~ending at~~
2 ~~12:00 noon on the first day in March and beginning at 12:00 noon one (1) week~~
3 ~~prior to the first day in March~~ beginning at 12:00 noon on the first Monday
4 in November preceding the general primary election and ending at 12:00 noon
5 on the seventh day thereafter.

6 (2) Party pledges, if any, and affidavits of eligibility shall
7 be filed, any filing fees of a political party, if any, shall be paid, and
8 party certificates shall be issued by the party during regular office hours
9 during the party filing period.

10 (3) A party certificate and the political practices pledge shall
11 be filed with the county clerk or the Secretary of State, as the case may be,
12 during regular office hours during the party filing period.

13 (4) The name of a candidate who fails to file a party
14 certificate and political practices pledge by the filing deadline with the
15 Secretary of State or county clerk, as the case may be, shall not appear on
16 the ballot.

17 (5) Party pledges, if any, shall be filed, filing fees, if any,
18 shall be paid, and party certificates and political practice pledges shall be
19 filed for special primary elections on or before the deadline established by
20 proclamation of the Governor or other entity authorized to call a special
21 primary election.

22
23 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-7-304(a) and (b), concerning names to be
24 included on ballots, is amended to read as follows:

25 (a)(1) Not less than ~~seventy-five (75)~~ ninety-two (92) days before each
26 preferential primary election, the Secretary of State shall certify to all
27 county boards of election commissioners full lists of the names of all
28 candidates who have filed party certificates with him or her to be placed on
29 the ballots in their respective counties at the preferential primary
30 election.

31 (2) A name of a person shall not be certified and shall not be
32 placed on the ballot if prior to the certification deadline a candidate:

33 (A) Notifies the Secretary of State in writing, signed by
34 the candidate and acknowledged before an officer authorized to take
35 acknowledgements, of his or her desire to withdraw as a candidate for the
36 office or position; or

1 (B) Dies.

2 (b)(1) Not less than ~~seventy-five (75)~~ ninety-two (92) days before each
 3 preferential primary election, the county clerk shall certify to the county
 4 board full lists of the names of all candidates who have filed party
 5 certificates with him or her to be placed on the ballot at the preferential
 6 primary election.

7 (2) A name of a person shall not be certified and shall not be
 8 placed on the ballot if prior to the certification deadline a candidate:

9 (A) Notifies the county clerk in writing, signed by the
 10 candidate and acknowledged before an officer authorized to take
 11 acknowledgements, of his or her desire to withdraw as a candidate for the
 12 office or position; or

13 (B) Dies.

14
 15 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-7-305(b), concerning printing of ballots,
 16 is amended to read as follows:

17 (b) The order in which the names of the respective candidates are to
 18 appear on the ballots at all preferential and general primary elections shall
 19 be determined by lot at the public meeting of the county board of election
 20 commissioners held not later than ~~seventy-two (72)~~ eighty-nine (89) days
 21 before the preferential primary election. The county board shall give at
 22 least ten (10) days' written notice of the time and place of the meeting to
 23 the chairs of the county committees if the chairs are not members of the
 24 board, and at least three (3) days before the meeting, shall publish notice
 25 of the time and place of holding the meeting in some newspaper of general
 26 circulation in the county.

27
 28 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 14-42-206(a)(1), concerning resolutions
 29 requesting that county political party committees conduct party primaries, is
 30 amended to read as follows:

31 (a)(1) The city or town council of any city or town with the mayor-
 32 council form of government, by resolution passed ~~before January 1 of the year~~
 33 ~~of the election~~ no less than sixty (60) days before the party filing period
 34 under § 7-7-203, may request the county party committees of recognized
 35 political parties under the laws of the state to conduct party primaries for
 36 municipal offices for the forthcoming year.

1
2 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code Title 21, Chapter 8, Subchapter 7, is amended
3 to add an additional section to read as follows:

4 21-8-706. Filing of additional statement of financial interest in year
5 in which party filing period is held.

6 If the party filing period under § 7-7-203 ends before January 1 of the
7 year of the general election, a candidate for elective office shall file a
8 statement of financial interest for the previous calendar year no later than
9 January 31 of the year of the general election in addition to the statement
10 of financial interest required under § 21-8-701.

11
12 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 10-2-101(b)(1), concerning the timing of
13 the fiscal session of the General Assembly, is amended to read as follows:

14 (b)(1) The General Assembly shall meet in a fiscal session at 12:00
15 noon on the second ~~Monday in February~~ Wednesday in April of each even-
16 numbered year to consider appropriation bills.

17
18 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 10-2-112(a)(1)(B)(i), concerning the
19 prefiling of bills and resolutions, is amended to read as follows:

20 (B)(i) The second Monday of ~~January~~ March of each year of
21 a fiscal session of the General Assembly.

22
23 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 10-3-2104(d)(3), concerning findings and
24 recommendations of the House Committee on Education and Senate Committee on
25 Education, is amended to read as follows:

26 (3) By ~~November~~ March 1 of the calendar year ~~before the~~
27 ~~beginning~~ of a fiscal session, if the House Committee on Education and the
28 Senate Committee on Education find that the recommendations in the most
29 recent adequacy evaluation report filed under this section should be amended,
30 the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education,
31 jointly or separately, or both, shall advise in writing the President Pro
32 Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of
33 their findings and amendments to the adequacy evaluation report.

34
35 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 19-4-304(b)(1), concerning the submission
36 of the annual revenue forecast to the Legislative Council by the Director of

1 the Department of Finance and Administration, is amended to read as follows:

2 (1) By ~~December~~ February 1 of the year ~~preceding~~ of a fiscal
3 session; and

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