

1 State of Arkansas  
2 90th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2015  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1952

5 By: Representative Walker  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO MODIFY ELECTIONS FOR A CITY BOARD OF  
9 DIRECTORS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
10

### Subtitle

11 TO MODIFY ELECTIONS FOR A CITY BOARD OF  
12 DIRECTORS.  
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 14, Chapter 47, Subchapter 1, is  
20 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

21 14-47-141. Effect of minority population on election of directors.

22 (a) The qualified electors of a city having a minority population of  
23 ten percent (10%) or greater of the total population, as reported by the most  
24 recent federal decennial census, shall elect the members of the board of  
25 directors using selection procedures in compliance with the Voting Rights Act  
26 of 1965, 52 U.S.C. § 10301 et seq., as in effect January 1, 2015.

27 (b)(1) At least ninety (90) days before the election, the board of  
28 directors, with the approval of the controlling county board of election  
29 commissioners, shall divide a city that has a minority population of ten  
30 percent (10%) or greater of the total population into seven (7) single-member  
31 zones in accordance with the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, 52 U.S.C. §  
32 10301 et seq., as in effect January 1, 2015.

33 (2) Zones shall have substantially equal population, with  
34 boundaries based on the most recent federal decennial census.

35 (c)(1) A candidate for election from a single-member zone shall be a  
36 qualified elector and a resident of the zone.



1           (2)(A) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, a  
2 member of a city board of directors shall serve a term of four (4) years.

3           (B) A term begins when the county court declares the  
4 results of the election by an order entered of record.

5           (d) At the first meeting of a new board of directors, the members  
6 shall establish initial terms by lot so that, to the extent possible, an  
7 equal number of positions are filled each year and not more than two (2)  
8 members' terms expire each year.

9           (e)(1) At least one hundred (100) days before the second election  
10 after each federal decennial census, the city board of directors, with the  
11 approval of the county board of election commissioners of the county where  
12 the city is situated, shall:

13           (A) Divide each city having a minority population of ten  
14 percent (10%) or greater into single-member zones; and

15           (B)(i) File a copy of the plan with the county clerk of  
16 the county where the city is situated.

17           (ii) The plan filed with the clerk shall include a  
18 map showing the boundaries of the zones and documentation showing the  
19 population by race in each zone.

20           (2) The zones shall be based on the most recent federal  
21 decennial census and be substantially equal in population.

22           (3) At the election following the rezoning, a new city board of  
23 directors shall be elected in accordance with this section.

24           (f)(1) On or before August 1, 2016, and every decade thereafter, a  
25 city with a city manager form of government shall submit to the State Board  
26 of Election Commissioners a letter stating whether its city board of  
27 directors is subject to this section.

28           (2) A city subject to this section shall state in its letter to  
29 the State Board of Election Commissioners how it has complied with this  
30 section.

31           (3) A city that determines it is not subject to this section  
32 shall state in its letter to the State Board of Election Commissioners how it  
33 is exempt.

34           (g) The State Board of Election Commissioners shall promulgate rules  
35 necessary for the implementation of this section.

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