

**Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the Arkansas Constitution.**

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021  
4  
5 By: Senator A. Clark

SJR 2

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION**

8 AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW  
9 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONVENE IN EXTRAORDINARY  
10 SESSION UPON THE REQUEST OF A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS  
11 OF EACH HOUSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; AND TO PROVIDE  
12 FOR CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THE GENERAL  
13 ASSEMBLY MAY EXTEND AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION CALLED  
14 AT THE REQUEST OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

**Subtitle**

18 A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW THE  
19 GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONVENE IN  
20 EXTRAORDINARILY SESSION UPON THE REQUEST  
21 OF A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF EACH  
22 HOUSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
26 STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, A MAJORITY OF ALL  
27 MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

29 That the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of  
30 the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state  
31 for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives  
32 and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election  
33 adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of  
34 the State of Arkansas, to wit:

36 SECTION 1. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 5, is amended to read



1 as follows:

2 § 5. Regular and fiscal sessions.

3 (a) The General Assembly shall meet at the seat of government every  
4 year.

5 (b) The General Assembly shall meet in regular session on the second  
6 Monday in January of each odd-numbered year to consider any bill or  
7 resolution. The General Assembly may alter the time at which the regular  
8 session begins.

9 (c)(1) Beginning in 2010, the General Assembly shall meet in fiscal  
10 session on the second Monday in February of each even-numbered year to  
11 consider only appropriation bills. The General Assembly may alter the time at  
12 which the fiscal session begins.

13 (2) A bill other than an appropriation bill may be considered in  
14 a fiscal session if two-thirds (2/3) of the members of each house of the  
15 General Assembly approve consideration of the bill.

16 (d) The General Assembly, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members  
17 elected to each house of the General Assembly, may alter the dates of the  
18 regular session and fiscal session so that regular sessions occur in even  
19 numbered years and the fiscal sessions occur in odd-numbered years.

20 (e)(1) The General Assembly shall meet in extraordinary session upon  
21 the written request of a majority of the members of each house of the General  
22 Assembly.

23 (2) Upon the submission of one (1) or more petitions to the  
24 Governor containing the signatures of at least a majority of the members of  
25 each house of the General Assembly, the Governor shall issue a proclamation  
26 convening the General Assembly in extraordinary session at the requested  
27 time.

28 (3) The petitions submitted to the Governor and the proclamation  
29 issued by the Governor shall indicate without limitation:

30 (A) The purpose for which the General Assembly shall be  
31 convened; and

32 (B) The date and time at which the General Assembly shall  
33 be convened.

34 (4)(A) No other business than the purpose set forth in the  
35 petitions and the proclamation shall be transacted at the extraordinary  
36 session until the same shall have been disposed of; after which the General

1 Assembly may, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all the members elected to  
 2 both houses, entered upon their journals, remain in session for a period not  
 3 exceeding fifteen (15) days.

4 (B)(i) If the General Assembly has disposed of the  
 5 purposes of the extraordinary session under this subsection (e) and the  
 6 Governor has declared a disaster emergency applicable to all or a portion of  
 7 the State of Arkansas, the General Assembly may, by a vote of a majority of  
 8 all the members elected to both houses, entered upon their journals, remain  
 9 in session for the duration of the disaster emergency.

10 (ii) If the General Assembly votes to remain in  
 11 session under subdivision (e)(1)(B)(i) of this section, it may enact  
 12 legislation necessary to resolve or mitigate the disaster emergency.

13 (iii) The General Assembly shall adjourn the  
 14 extraordinary session within three (3) days of the termination of the  
 15 disaster emergency declaration.

16 (5) This section does not restrict the authority of the Governor  
 17 to convene an extraordinary session of the General Assembly under Arkansas  
 18 Constitution, Article 6, § 19.

19  
 20 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment shall be effective on and  
 21 after November 9, 2022.

22  
 23 SECTION 3. BALLOT TITLE AND POPULAR NAME. When this proposed  
 24 amendment is submitted to the electors of this state on the general election  
 25 ballot:

26 (1) The title of this Joint Resolution shall be the ballot  
 27 title; and

28 (2) The popular name shall be "A Constitutional Amendment to  
 29 Allow the General Assembly to Convene in Extraordinary Session Upon the  
 30 Request of a Majority of the Members of Each House of the General Assembly  
 31 and to Provide for Certain Circumstances in Which the General Assembly May  
 32 Extend an Extraordinary Session Called at the Request of the General  
 33 Assembly".