

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1165

By: Representatives Johnson, Brown

By: Senator J. English

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW REGARDING LOCAL OPTION ELECTIONS IN DEFUNCT VOTING DISTRICTS THAT RESULTED FROM INITIATED MEASURE 1 OF 1942; TO AUTHORIZE ELECTIONS REGARDING ON-PREMISES CONSUMPTION THROUGH BOTH PETITION AND CITY ORDINANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW FOR LOCAL OPTION ELECTIONS IN DEFUNCT VOTING DISTRICTS THAT RESULTED FROM INITIATED MEASURE 1 OF 1942.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 3-8-602 is amended to read as follows:

3-8-602. Local option election – Defunct voting district – On-premises consumption only.

(a)(1) Under subsection (b) of this section, an area within the boundaries of a defunct voting district may conduct an election to permit the sale of alcoholic beverages identified in subdivision (a)(2) of this section.

(2) The sale of alcoholic beverages under this section shall be limited to beer, malt beverages, vinous beverages, and spirituous liquor for on-premises consumption within the corporate limits of a city of the first class or a city of the second class.

(b) An election for an area within the boundaries of a defunct voting



district to permit the sale of the alcoholic beverages identified in subdivision (a)(2) of this section shall be held as follows:

(1)(A) A registered voter who resides in a county that contains a defunct voting district may request in writing or a city council of a city of the first class that includes a defunct voting district may request by ordinance that the county board of election commissioners issue a resolution to identify the boundaries of a territorial subdivision located in a defunct voting district in which qualified voters may reside.

(B) The county board of election commissioners shall issue a resolution within thirty (30) days.

(C) The resolution shall identify the:

(i) Territorial subdivisions that are located wholly or partially within borders of any defunct voting districts in the county;

(ii) Formal and informal name or designation of any defunct voting districts in the county as of the last date the defunct voting district held the election resulting in its dry status;

(iii) Date on which any defunct voting district held the last local option election that resulted in the defunct voting district's becoming dry; and

(iv)(a) Boundaries of any defunct voting district at the time of the last local option election that resulted in the defunct voting district's becoming dry.

(b) The boundaries of the defunct voting district shall be based on state, county, or municipal records or other records publicly identified in the resolution.

(D) The resolution shall include a map of the boundaries of the defunct voting district from which qualified electors residing within the defunct voting district can be identified and verified for purposes of obtaining signatures and conducting the local option election.

(E) In preparing the resolution and the map, the county board of election commissioners may consult with the county clerk, the state board of election commissioners, the Secretary of State, or any other entity able to provide assistance in confirming the data and preparing the map required by subdivision (b)(1)(D) of this section and the precise boundaries of the defunct voting district.

(F) The resolution shall be filed with the county clerk

and published one (1) time a week for two (2) weeks as soon as practicable in a newspaper of general circulation in the county;

(2)(A)(i) ~~The A~~ petition procedure for a local option election for a defunct voting district shall be conducted under § 3-8-201 et seq.

(ii) The city council of a city of the first class that includes a defunct voting district may adopt an ordinance to hold a local option election to be conducted under § 3-8-201 et seq.

(B) Signatures shall be obtained from fifteen percent (15%) of the qualified electors residing within the boundaries of a defunct voting district, as identified by the resolution and corresponding map.

(C) When fifteen percent (15%) of the qualified voters have filed petitions with the county clerk under this subdivision (b)(2), the county clerk shall determine within ten (10) days the sufficiency of the petitions under § 3-8-205;

(3)(A)(i) The election process for a special local option election for a defunct voting district shall be conducted pursuant to § 3-8-201 et seq.

(ii) The county clerk shall issue a resolution calling for a special local option election for a defunct voting district for which the requisite number of signatures has been certified under subdivision (b)(2) of this section when:

(a) The requisite number of qualified electors sign petitions filed with the county clerk; and

(b) The county clerk certifies those signatures to the county board of election commissioners.

(iii) The resolution calling the special local option election shall be filed with the county clerk, and the county clerk shall immediately transmit the document to the county board of election commissioners.

(iv) The resolution calling the special local option election shall state:

(a) The date of the special election;

(b) The full text of the measure for which the election is called; and

(c) The ballot title for the measure for which the special local option election is called.

(v) The county board of election commissioners shall publish the resolution calling the special option election one (1) time a week for two (2) weeks as soon as practicable in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

(B) The ballot title shall be in substantially the following form: "TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES MAY BE SOLD AS AUTHORIZED BY ARKANSAS CODE § 3-8-602 WITHIN (popular name of the defunct voting district)".

(C) The ballot shall be in substantially the following form:

"[] FOR the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages, As Authorized by Arkansas Code § 3-8-602.

[] AGAINST the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages, As Authorized by Arkansas Code § 3-8-602."

(D) The special local option election shall be called on a Tuesday and shall not be held less than sixty (60) days following the date the resolution calling the special election is filed with the county clerk.

(E) The map of the defunct voting district created by the county board of election commissioners shall be placed at each polling site.

(F) A majority vote of the qualified electors residing within the boundaries of the defunct voting district shall determine whether or not alcoholic beverages may be sold or manufactured under subdivision (a)(2) of this section within the boundaries of the defunct voting district; and

(4) The precincts and polling sites to be utilized for conducting elections under this section shall be established by the county board of election commissioners.

(c) If a defunct voting district is located entirely within the boundaries of a larger defunct voting district, a vote shall be held only for the larger defunct voting district.

(d)(1) If two (2) defunct voting districts overlap, then the overlapping area will only be included in the boundaries of the defunct voting district that first held the local option election that resulted in its dry status to determine whether or not alcoholic beverages may be sold or manufactured under subdivision (a)(2) of this section.

(2)(A) The local option elections for more than one (1) defunct

voting district may be held simultaneously or on different dates.

(B) If local option elections for more than one (1) defunct voting district are held on the same date, the majority vote of all the voters residing within the boundaries of the defunct voting district shall determine the local option status of only the geographic area located within the boundaries of that particular defunct voting district.

(e) If the majority of the qualified voters in the special local option election vote:

(1) For the sale of alcoholic beverages as described under subdivision (a)(2) of this section, then it shall be lawful for the Director of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Division to issue the relevant licenses or permits within the defunct voting district immediately after the certification of the results of an election permitting the sale or manufacture of alcoholic beverages under this section, as required by § 3-8-206; or

(2) Against the sale or manufacture of alcoholic beverages as described under subdivision (a)(2) of this section, then it shall be unlawful for the Alcoholic Beverage Control Division to issue licenses or permits for ~~such sale~~ the sale of alcoholic beverages within the defunct voting district.

(f) A subsequent election under this section shall not be held in the same defunct voting district until a period of two (2) years has elapsed since the last special local option election conducted under this section.

(g) The cost of a local option election under this section shall be paid by the county in the same manner as the cost of a general election, or in any other manner as properly determined by the quorum court.

(h)(1) The boundaries of a defunct voting district as identified by the county board of election commissioners under subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall be deemed final and valid unless clearly erroneous or arbitrary.

(2) Any challenge to or appeal of the boundaries established by the resolution of the county board of election commissioners shall be made to the county court within eleven (11) days of the first publication of the resolution described in subdivision (b)(1)(F) of this section.

(i) To the extent any of the provisions of this section conflict with § 3-8-201 et seq., the provisions of this section control.

APPROVED: 02/07/2017