

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: S1/25/17
A Bill

SENATE BILL 143

By: Senator J. Cooper

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REVISE VARIOUS PROVISIONS CONCERNING
ELECTION PROCEDURES IN WHICH A MAYORAL CANDIDATE
RECEIVES LESS THAN A MAJORITY; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REVISE VARIOUS PROVISIONS CONCERNING
ELECTION PROCEDURES.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 14-43-304 is amended to read as follows:

14-43-304. Mayors in cities having mayor-council government.

(a)(1) ~~No mayor of cities~~ A mayor of a city of the first class having a mayor-council form of government shall be elected ~~except:~~

(A) by ~~By~~ a majority vote of the qualified electors of the city; or

(B) In accordance with § 7-5-106.

(2) ~~The provisions of this section shall not~~ This section does not apply to a city of the first class with a city manager form of government or a city administrator form of government.

(b)(1) As soon as the returns from all precincts are received, but ~~in~~ no event no later than the ~~seventh~~ fifteenth day after the election, the county board of election commissioners shall proceed to ascertain, from the certificates and ballots received from the several precincts, and declare the result of the election and deliver a certificate of his or her election to any person having the ~~majority~~ requisite amount of legal votes for the office



of mayor.

(2) The county board of election commissioners shall also file in the office of the clerk of the county court a certificate setting forth in detail the results of the election.

(c)(1) ~~In the event that~~ If no candidate for mayor of a city of the first class receives ~~a majority~~ the requisite amount of the votes cast in the general election, the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be certified to a special runoff election that shall be held three (3) weeks from the day on which the general election is held.

(2) The special runoff election shall be conducted in the same manner as provided by law, and the election results ~~thereof~~ of the special runoff election shall be canvassed and certified in the manner provided by law.

(d) ~~In the event that~~ If a vacancy occurs in the office of mayor of ~~these cities~~ a city described in this section and the unexpired term is more than one (1) year, the vacancy shall be filled by a special election and special runoff election, if necessary, as provided in subsection (c) of this section.

/s/J. Cooper

APPROVED: 02/15/2017