

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 389 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

As Engrossed: S3/1/23 H3/7/23
A Bill

SENATE BILL 273

By: Senators J. Petty, K. Hammer, Dees, M. McKee, Stone

By: Representatives McAlindon, Wing, Achor, Andrews, Barker, Beaty Jr., Beck, Bentley, M. Berry, Breaux, Brooks, K. Brown, M. Brown, Burkes, Joey Carr, C. Cooper, Cozart, Evans, C. Fite, L. Fite, Fortner, Furman, Gazaway, Gonzales, Gramlich, Haak, Hawk, Hollowell, Jean, Ladyman, Long, Lundstrum, Lynch, McClure, McCollum, M. McElroy, McGrew, B. McKenzie, McNair, S. Meeks, Miller, Milligan, K. Moore, Pilkington, Puryear, R. Scott Richardson, Richmond, Rose, Rye, Tosh, Underwood, Vaught, Womack, Wooten

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND ELECTION LAW CONCERNING POLLING
SITES; TO AMEND THE LOCATION OF VOTE CENTERS; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND ELECTION LAW CONCERNING POLLING
SITES; AND TO AMEND THE LOCATION OF VOTE
CENTERS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-5-101(e)(2), concerning the establishment and alteration of precinct boundaries, polling sites, and vote centers, is amended to read as follows:

(2)(A)(i) Except for school elections under § 6-14-106, a vote center location for each election shall be the same as that established for the immediately preceding general election unless changed by order of the county board of election commissioners.

(ii) When a runoff is required in a county that only utilizes vote centers, the vote centers for the runoff election shall be the vote centers that are located within a precinct composed of qualified



electors who are eligible to vote in that runoff election.

(iii) When a runoff election is required in a county that only utilizes vote centers and where no vote center is located in one or more precincts composed of qualified electors participating in the runoff election, the county board of election commissioners shall:

(a) Establish one (1) or more vote centers within the jurisdiction for which the runoff election is being conducted prior to the publication of the notice of election; or

(b) Open a vote center at the county seat if no polling site is otherwise available on election day under this section.

(B)(i) The county board of election commissioners shall not change a vote center location for ~~any precinct~~ less than ~~thirty (30)~~ sixty (60) days before ~~an~~ a preferential primary election or general election, except in the event of an emergency.

(ii) The county board of election commissioners shall not change a vote center location less than thirty (30) days before an election other than for a preferential *primary or general* election, except in the event of an emergency.

(iii) The county board of election commissioners may establish a new vote center for an election less than thirty (30) days before *an election if a majority of the county board of election commissioners determines the existing vote centers do not adequately serve the county's* qualified electors.

(iv) A vote center established under subdivision (e)(2)(B)(iii) of this section shall be included in the notice of election.

/s/J. Petty

APPROVED: 3/30/23