

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1619

By: Representative G. Hodges

By: Senator J. Bryant

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO PERMIT A LOCAL BOARD OF A COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL ZONES UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO PERMIT A LOCAL BOARD OF A COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL ZONES UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-61-518, concerning reconstituted community college districts, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(c)(1) Within sixty (60) days of a successful election to reconstitute an existing community college district under this section, the local board of a community college district as it existed before the reconstitution of the community college district may vote by a majority vote to establish additional zones within the reconstituted community college district.

(2) If a local board of a community college district votes to establish additional zones under subdivision (c)(1) of this section, the:

(A) Additional zones shall be substantially equal in population to the existing local community college board zones;

(B) Existing local community college board shall notify the county board of election commissioners of each county in which a portion of the county is a part of the reconstituted community college district that



an election shall be held at the next general election in the portion of the county in which the additional zones are included; and

(C) Candidates for election from the additional zones shall be elected at the next general election.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-61-529(c) and (d), concerning the election of members of a local community college board under certain circumstances, are amended to read as follows:

(c)(1) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, if the local community college board chooses to remain an elected board, ~~beginning with the 1996 general election,~~ the qualified electors of a community college district having a ten percent (10%) or greater population in any one (1) racial minority, as reported by the most recent federal decennial census information, shall elect the members of the local board as follows, utilizing selection procedures in compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, 42 U.S.C. § ~~1971 et seq.~~ (now 52 U.S.C. § 10101 et seq.):

(A)(i) At least ninety (90) days before the election, the local board ~~shall,~~

(a) Shall, with approval of the county board of election commissioners of ~~any~~ each county in which the community college is located, divide the district into ~~nine (9) zones,~~ or the local board may,

(b) May, by resolution, utilize existing quorum court districts.

(ii) Zones determined under subdivision (c)(1)(A)(i)(a) of this section shall have substantially equal population, with boundaries based on the most recent available federal decennial census information; and

(B) A candidate for election from a zone or a quorum court district ~~must~~ shall be a ~~qualified;~~

(i) Qualified elector of the zone or district; and a ~~resident~~

(ii) Resident of the zone or district.

(2)(A) A board member shall serve a six-year term.

(B) A term shall commence ~~after;~~

(i) After the county court declares the results of the election by an order entered of record; and ~~on~~

(ii) On January 1 next following the date of the election.

(3)(A) After each federal decennial census and at least ninety (90) days before the general election, the local board ~~shall~~;

(i) Shall, with approval of the county board of election commissioners of any county in which the community college is located, divide the district into ~~nine (9) zones~~; or ~~the local board may~~,

(ii) May, by resolution, utilize quorum court districts.

(B) The zones determined under subdivision (c)(3)(A)(i) of this section or quorum court districts shall be ~~based~~;

(i) Based on the most recent federal decennial census information; and ~~be substantially~~

(ii) Substantially equal in population.

(B) At the general election following the rezoning, a new local board shall be elected in accordance with procedures set forth in this section.

(d) If division into zones for election purposes would not create a voting zone with twenty percent (20%) or greater population in any one (1) racial minority, the community college district shall be exempt from subsection (c) of this section.

APPROVED: 4/10/23