

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 405 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: S3/10/25 S3/12/25

A Bill

SENATE BILL 353

By: Senator Hester

By: Representative Wooldridge

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING THE DATES FOR ELECTIONS; TO AMEND THE DATES OF PRIMARY ELECTIONS, SCHOOL ELECTIONS, AND CERTAIN SPECIAL ELECTIONS; TO CHANGE THE DATE OF THE FISCAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING THE DATES FOR ELECTIONS; TO AMEND THE DATES OF PRIMARY ELECTIONS, SCHOOL ELECTIONS, AND CERTAIN SPECIAL ELECTIONS; AND TO CHANGE THE DATE OF THE FISCAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-14-102(a)(1)(A), concerning the date of the annual school election, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1)(A) The annual school election shall be held in each school district of the state:

(i) In even-numbered years, on the date of the:

(a) Preferential primary election; or

(b) General election; and

(ii) In odd-numbered years, on the:

(a) Second Tuesday in November; or

(b) ~~Second Tuesday in May~~ First Tuesday after

the first Monday in March.



SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-14-111(k), concerning candidate filing procedures for school elections, is amended to read as follows:

(k) The order in which the names of the respective candidates are to appear on the ballot shall be determined by lot at the public meeting of the county board of election commissioners held not later than:

(1) The deadline to conduct the ballot draw for the preferential primary or general election for an annual school election held in even-numbered years; and

(2) ~~The seventh day of March for Eighty-nine (89) days before an annual school election held on the second~~ first Tuesday after the first Monday in ~~May~~ March of an odd-numbered year; and

(3) Seventy-two (72) days before an annual school election held on the second Tuesday of November of an odd-numbered year.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-7-203(a) and (b), concerning the dates of the general primary election and preferential primary election, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The general primary election shall be held+

~~(1) For years in which the office of Governor will appear on the ballot at the general election, on the third Tuesday in June preceding the general election; and~~

~~(2) For years in which the office of President of the United States will appear on the ballot at the general election, on the Tuesday four (4) weeks following the preferential primary election.~~

(b) The preferential primary election shall be held+

~~(1) For years in which the office of Governor will appear on the ballot at the general election, on the Tuesday four (4) weeks before the general primary election; and~~

~~(2) For years in which the office of President of the United States will appear on the ballot at the general election, on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March.~~

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 7-7-203(c)(1), concerning the dates of the general primary election and preferential primary election, is amended to read as follows:

(c)(1) The party filing period shall be a one-week period ~~beginning and ending on the following dates and times:~~

~~(A) For years in which the office of Governor will appear on the ballot at the general election, beginning at 12:00 noon one (1) week prior to the first day in March and ending at 12:00 noon on the second day in March; and~~

~~(B) For years in which the office of President of the United States will appear on the ballot at the general election, beginning at 12:00 noon on the first Monday in November preceding the general primary election and ending at 12:00 noon on the eighth day thereafter.~~

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 7-7-304(a)(1), concerning the names to be included on the ballots in a preferential primary, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) The Secretary of State shall certify to all county boards of election commissioners full lists of the names of all candidates who have filed party certificates with him or her to be placed on the ballots in their respective counties at the preferential primary election not less than:

~~(A) Seventy five (75) days before a preferential primary election that is held in May under § 7-7-203; and~~

~~(B) Ninety two ninety-two (92) days before a preferential primary election that is held in March under § 7-7-203.~~

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 7-7-304(b)(1), concerning the names to be included on the ballots in a preferential primary, is amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) The county clerk shall certify to the county board of election commissioners full lists of the names of all candidates who have filed party certificates with him or her to be placed on the ballot at the preferential primary election not less than:

~~(A) Seventy five (75) days before a preferential primary election that is held in May under § 7-7-203; and~~

~~(B) Ninety two ninety-two (92) days before a preferential primary election that is held in March under § 7-7-203.~~

SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 7-7-305(b)(1), concerning the printing of

ballots and draw for ballot position, is amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) The order in which the names of the respective candidates are to appear on the ballots at all preferential and general primary elections shall be determined by lot at the public meeting of the county board of election commissioners held not later than+

~~(A) Seventy two (72) days before a preferential primary election that is held in May under § 7-7-203; and~~

~~(B) Eighty nine eighty-nine (89) days before a preferential primary election that is held in March under § 7-7-203.~~

SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 7-11-205(a), concerning dates of special elections on measures and questions, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) Except as provided in subdivision (a)(2) of this section, all special elections on measures or questions referred to the voters by governmental entities as authorized by law shall be held on the ~~second Tuesday of:~~

(A) First Tuesday after the first Monday in March or ~~November in a year when a presidential election is held; and or~~

(B) May or Second Tuesday of November of all other years.

(2)(A) Special elections scheduled to occur ~~in a month in which the second Tuesday is on~~ a legal holiday:

(i) In March on the first Tuesday after the first Monday shall be held on the second Tuesday of the month; and

(ii) In November on the second Tuesday shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month.

(B) Special elections held in months in which a preferential primary election or general election is scheduled to occur shall be held on the date of the preferential primary election or general election.

(C) A special election on a measure or question may be scheduled on the second Tuesday of a month, other than the months provided in subdivision (a)(1) of this section, if necessary to comply with the requirements of Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 1.

SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 10-2-101(b)(1), concerning the time for meeting by the General Assembly in fiscal session, is amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) The General Assembly shall meet in a fiscal session to consider appropriation bills in each even-numbered year at 12:00 noon on the+

~~(A) Second Monday in February in years in which the preferential primary election is held in May under § 7-7-203; and~~

~~(B) Second second Wednesday in April in years in which the preferential primary election is held in March under § 7-7-203.~~

SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 10-2-112(a)(1), concerning the prefiling of bills and resolutions, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) The Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate, under the direction and supervision of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, shall establish a system for the prefiling of bills and resolutions beginning on:

(A) November 15 of each year preceding a regular session of the General Assembly; and

~~(B) The second Monday of January of each year of a fiscal session of the General Assembly which is held in a year in which the preferential primary election is held in May under § 7-7-203; and~~

~~(C) The second Monday of March of each year of a fiscal session of the General Assembly which is held in a year in which the preferential primary election is held in March under § 7-7-203.~~

SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 10-3-2104(d)(3), concerning reports under the Continuing Advocacy Evaluation Act of 2004, is amended to read as follows:

(3) If the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education find that the recommendations in the most recent adequacy evaluation report filed under this section should be amended, the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education, jointly or separately, or both, shall advise in writing the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of their findings and amendments to the adequacy evaluation report+

~~(A) By November 1 of the calendar year before the beginning of a fiscal session that is held in a year in which the preferential primary election is held in May under § 7-7-203; and~~

~~(B)~~ By by March 1 of the calendar year before the beginning of a fiscal session ~~that is held in a year in which the preferential primary election is held in March under § 7-7-203.~~

SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 19-4-304(b), concerning regular and fiscal session preparations, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The secretary shall submit the annual revenue forecast to the Legislative Council:

~~(1) By December 1 of the year preceding a fiscal session that is held in a year in which the preferential primary election will be held in May under § 7-7-203;~~

~~(2) By February 1 of a year preceding a fiscal session that is held in a year in which the preferential primary election is held in March under § 7-7-203; and~~

~~(3)~~(2) No later than sixty (60) days before the start of a regular session.

/s/Hester

APPROVED: 3/25/25