

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 726 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: S4/1/25

A Bill

SENATE BILL 484

By: Senator Irvin

By: Representative McCollum

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARDS OF
DIRECTORS; TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS WHEREBY A VACANCY
IS FILLED ON A SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS WHEREBY A VACANCY
IS FILLED ON A SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF
DIRECTORS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-13-611(c), concerning the appointment of an individual to fill a vacancy on a school district board of directors, is amended to read as follows:

(c)(1) If a vacancy occurs on the school district board of directors, the vacancy shall be filled by the appointment of an individual who is a qualified elector of the school district and who resides in the same zone, if applicable, as required by the vacant position by ~~either~~:

~~(1)(A) A majority vote of the remaining directors within ninety (90) days+~~

~~(A) Thirty (30) days for vacancies resulting under subdivisions (a)(1)-(7) of this section; or~~

~~(B) Sixty (60) days for vacancies resulting under subdivision (a)(8) of this section; or~~

~~(2)(B) The county quorum court of the county in which a majority of the residents are represented by the school district board of~~



directors' vacated position if:

~~(A)(i)~~ As a result of several vacancies on the school district board of directors, only a minority of board members remains;
or

~~(B)(ii)~~ The school district board of directors fails to fill the vacancy within the time permitted under subdivision (c)(1)(A) ~~or subdivision (e)(1)(B)~~ of this section.

(2)(A) At least thirty (30) days before an appointment is made by a school district board of directors or a county quorum court, the school district shall publish a notice of the vacancy on the school district board of directors, the date of the meeting when the appointment shall be made to fill the vacancy, and the requirements for being considered to fill the vacancy, including without limitation the process for consideration to fill the vacancy required under subdivision (c)(3) of this section:

(i) In a local newspaper covering the school district zone or area;

(ii)(a) On the homepage of the school district's official website.

(b) The school district shall include blank copies of any required forms with the notice required under subdivision (c)(2)(A)(ii)(a) of this section; and

(iii) Utilizing existing communication systems, including without limitation text messages, phone messages, and email, that the school district ordinarily employs to contact parents and legal guardians of students enrolled in the school district.

(B) A school district shall promptly give notice of the existence of a vacancy and shall submit evidence of the publication of a vacancy required under subdivision (c)(2)(A) of this section to the county clerk of the county in which the school district is administratively domiciled.

(3) A qualified elector who resides in the school district or school district zone affected by a school district board of directors' vacancy who wishes to be considered to fill the vacancy shall submit a petition to the school district or county quorum court no later than ten (10) days before the date of the meeting specified in the notice of the vacancy published under subdivision (c)(2)(A) of this section that:

(A) Is signed by at least twenty (20) qualified electors from the vacant school district or school district zone position; and

(B) States his or her intention to be considered for the appointment to fill the vacancy.

(4)(A) The school district board of directors or quorum court shall:

(i) Acknowledge in writing the receipt of a petition under subdivision (c)(3) of this section; and

(ii) Promptly inform a candidate if his or her petition has been found to be insufficient or invalid:

(a) That his or her petition has been found to be insufficient or invalid; and

(b) What the candidate is required to do to cure the petition before the deadline.

(B) A school district board of directors or county quorum court may fill a vacancy only with a candidate who has submitted a timely, valid, and sufficient petition under this section.

(5)(A) An elector who submits a sufficient and valid petition under this section shall be given at least five (5) minutes to present his or her candidacy in a public meeting of the remaining members of the school district board of directors or the county quorum court before either the school district board of directors or county quorum court votes to fill the vacancy.

(B) A school district board of directors or a county quorum court may request reasonable information from a candidate to fill a vacancy under this section, including without limitation a request for written answers to questions before a public meeting is held.

(C)(i) A school district board of directors may vote to decline to fill the vacancy.

(ii) If a school district board of directors votes to decline to fill a vacancy under subdivision (c)(5)(C)(i) of this section, the appointment shall pass immediately to the quorum court of the county in which a majority of the residents of the vacant position reside.

(6) All matters regarding the filling of a vacancy on a school district board of directors shall be discussed and acted upon by a school district board of directors or a county quorum court in an open public

meeting and not in an executive session.

(7) If, after substantially complying with subdivisions (c)(1)–(6) of this section, a school district board of directors or a quorum court has not received a valid and sufficient petition under this section, the school district board of directors or county quorum court may use an alternative process to fill the vacancy.

/s/Irvin

APPROVED: 4/17/25