

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

As Engrossed: S3/13/13
A Bill

SENATE BILL 261

By: Senators J. Key, Irvin

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE A PETITION PROCESS FOR CITIZENS TO
REQUEST A MEETING OF A LOCAL GOVERNING BODY; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE A PETITION PROCESS FOR CITIZENS
TO REQUEST A MEETING OF A LOCAL GOVERNING
BODY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 14-14-904(a), concerning a quorum court assembly, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Time and Place of Quorum Court Assembly.

(1)(A)(i) The justices of the peace elected in each county shall assemble and organize as a county quorum court body on a date chosen by the county judge and held within five (5) days, excepting holidays, after the beginning of the justices' term in office.

(ii) If the first meeting is not held on the quorum court's established regular meeting day, the quorum court may declare the first meeting to be in lieu of the established January meeting.

(B)(i) Thereafter, the justices shall assemble each calendar month in their respective counties to perform the duties of a quorum court, except that more frequent meetings may be required by ordinance.

(ii)(a) The time and place of the initial assembly of justices shall be designated by written notice of the county judge.

(b) Thereafter, the justices shall meet as a



quorum court at a regular time and place established by ordinance.

(C)(i) The justices also shall meet as a quorum court when petitioned to do so by a verified petition in writing signed by fifty (50) qualified electors of the county.

(ii) The verified petition shall state the purpose for which the justices shall meet as a quorum court.

(2) By declaration of emergency or determination that an emergency exists and the safety of the general public is at risk, the county judge may change the date, place, or time of the regular meeting of the quorum court upon twenty-four-hour notice.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 14-43-502 is amended to read as follows:

14-43-502. Powers of council generally.

(a) The city council shall possess all the legislative powers granted by this subtitle and other corporate powers of the city not prohibited in it or by some ordinance of the city council made in pursuance of the provisions of this subtitle and conferred on some officer of the city.

(b)(1) The council shall have the management and control of finances, and of all the real and personal property belonging to the corporation.

(2)(A) The council shall provide the times and places of holding its meetings, which shall at all times be open to the public.

(B) The mayor or any three (3) aldermen of any city or town, regardless of size or classification, may call special meetings in the manner as may be provided by ordinance.

(C)(i) The council also shall meet when petitioned to do so by a verified petition in writing signed by fifty (50) qualified electors of the municipality.

(ii) The verified petition shall state the purpose for which the council shall meet.

(3) The council shall appoint, or provide by ordinance, that the qualified voters of the city, of the wards, or districts as the case may require, shall elect all such city officers as shall be necessary for the good government of the city and for the due exercise of its corporate powers, and which shall have been provided by ordinance, as to whose appointment or election provision is not made in this subtitle and not provided by any general law of the state in reference to cities of the first class.

/s/J. Key