

State of Arkansas  
90th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2015

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1743

By: Representative Sorvillo

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ALIGN ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTIONS WITH GENERAL ELECTIONS; TO AMEND OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW CONCERNING BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO ALIGN ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTIONS WITH GENERAL ELECTIONS; AND TO AMEND OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW CONCERNING BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-13-617 is amended to read as follows:  
6-13-617. Oath.

(a) Each director elected or appointed shall, within ten (10) days after receiving notice of his or her election or appointment, subscribe to the following oath:

“I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
do hereby solemnly swear or affirm, that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and that I will not be interested, directly or indirectly, in any contract made by the district of which I am a director, except as permitted by state law and that I will faithfully discharge the duties as school director in

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School District upon which I am about to enter.”

(b) The county clerk, upon receipt of the oath prescribed for a



director, shall immediately commission such persons, and they shall enter at once upon their duties as directors.

(c) A director shall hold his or her office until a successor is elected or appointed and qualified.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-13-618(a), concerning the organizational meeting of a school district board of directors, is amended to read as follows:

6-13-618. Organization – Disbursing officer.

(a) At the first regular meeting ~~following the later of the certification of the results of the annual school election or the certification of the results of a runoff election~~ after January 1 of each year, the board of directors of each school district shall organize by electing:

- (1) One ~~(1) of their number~~ member as president;
- (2) One ~~(1) of their number~~ member as vice president; and
- (3) A secretary who may be, but need not be, a member of the

board of directors.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-14-101 is amended to read as follows:

6-14-101. Applicability of general election laws.

(a) The general election laws shall apply to school elections insofar as they are not in conflict with the school election laws.

(b) The county board of election commissioners may include the annual school election on a separate ballot if the county board determines that a separate ballot is necessary to avoid voter confusion.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-14-102(a)(1), concerning the annual school election date, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) The annual school election shall be held in each school district of the state on the ~~third Tuesday in September~~ Tuesday next after the first Monday in November of each year.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-14-118 is amended to read as follows:

6-14-118. Expenses.

(a)(1) In special school elections, the school districts in the county

shall reimburse the county for the cost of the election less expenses incurred for election officials at individual polling places, with each school district's share of the total being determined by multiplying the total cost of the election by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of votes cast in the specific school election and the denominator of which is the total number of votes cast in the entire election.

(2) Expenses incurred for election officials at individual polling places shall be paid by the school district in which the polling place is located.

(b) At all ~~annual~~ or special elections, the board of directors of each school district shall pay the expenses of the election out of the school fund.