

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

State of Arkansas
90th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2015

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1952

By: Representative Walker

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MODIFY ELECTIONS FOR A CITY BOARD OF
DIRECTORS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO MODIFY ELECTIONS FOR A CITY BOARD OF
DIRECTORS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 14, Chapter 47, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

14-47-141. Effect of minority population on election of directors.

(a) The qualified electors of a city having a minority population of ten percent (10%) or greater of the total population, as reported by the most recent federal decennial census, shall elect the members of the board of directors using selection procedures in compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, 52 U.S.C. § 10301 et seq., as in effect January 1, 2015.

(b)(1) At least ninety (90) days before the election, the board of directors, with the approval of the controlling county board of election commissioners, shall divide a city that has a minority population of ten percent (10%) or greater of the total population into seven (7) single-member zones in accordance with the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, 52 U.S.C. § 10301 et seq., as in effect January 1, 2015.

(2) Zones shall have substantially equal population, with boundaries based on the most recent federal decennial census.

(c)(1) A candidate for election from a single-member zone shall be a qualified elector and a resident of the zone.



(2)(A) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, a member of a city board of directors shall serve a term of four (4) years.

(B) A term begins when the county court declares the results of the election by an order entered of record.

(d) At the first meeting of a new board of directors, the members shall establish initial terms by lot so that, to the extent possible, an equal number of positions are filled each year and not more than two (2) members' terms expire each year.

(e)(1) At least one hundred (100) days before the second election after each federal decennial census, the city board of directors, with the approval of the county board of election commissioners of the county where the city is situated, shall:

(A) Divide each city having a minority population of ten percent (10%) or greater into single-member zones; and

(B)(i) File a copy of the plan with the county clerk of the county where the city is situated.

(ii) The plan filed with the clerk shall include a map showing the boundaries of the zones and documentation showing the population by race in each zone.

(2) The zones shall be based on the most recent federal decennial census and be substantially equal in population.

(3) At the election following the rezoning, a new city board of directors shall be elected in accordance with this section.

(f)(1) On or before August 1, 2016, and every decade thereafter, a city with a city manager form of government shall submit to the State Board of Election Commissioners a letter stating whether its city board of directors is subject to this section.

(2) A city subject to this section shall state in its letter to the State Board of Election Commissioners how it has complied with this section.

(3) A city that determines it is not subject to this section shall state in its letter to the State Board of Election Commissioners how it is exempt.

(g) The State Board of Election Commissioners shall promulgate rules necessary for the implementation of this section.