

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the Arkansas Constitution.

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: H2/17/17

HJR 1020

By: Representative Davis

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO REPEAL THE FISCAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND TO PROVIDE FOR ANNUAL REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT SHALL NOT EXCEED SIXTY (60) DAYS IN LENGTH.

Subtitle

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION
TO REPEAL THE FISCAL SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND TO PROVIDE FOR
ANNUAL REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

That the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, to wit:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 5, is amended to read as follows:

§ 5. Regular ~~and fiscal~~ sessions.

(a) The General Assembly shall meet at the seat of government every



year.

(b) The General Assembly shall meet in regular session on the second Monday in January of each ~~odd-numbered~~ year to consider any bill or resolution. The General Assembly may alter the time at which the regular session begins.

~~(c)(1) Beginning in 2010, the General Assembly shall meet in fiscal session on the second Monday in February of each even-numbered year to consider only appropriation bills. The General Assembly may alter the time at which the fiscal session begins.~~

~~(2) A bill other than an appropriation bill may be considered in a fiscal session if two-thirds (2/3) of the members of each house of the General Assembly approve consideration of the bill.~~

~~(d) The General Assembly, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members elected to each house of the General Assembly, may alter the dates of the regular session and fiscal session so that regular sessions occur in even-numbered years and the fiscal sessions occur in odd-numbered years.~~

SECTION 2. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 17, is amended to read as follows:

§ 17. Duration of sessions.

(a) A regular ~~biennial~~ session shall not exceed ~~sixty (60)~~ forty-five (45) calendar days in duration, unless extended by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members elected to each house of the General Assembly. The regular ~~biennial~~ session shall not exceed ~~seventy-five (75)~~ fifty-five (55) calendar days in duration, unless extended by a vote of three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the members elected to each house of the General Assembly. A regular session of the General Assembly shall not exceed sixty (60) days.

~~(b) A fiscal session shall not exceed thirty (30) calendar days in duration, except that by a vote of three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the members elected to each house of the General Assembly a fiscal session may be extended one (1) time by no more than fifteen (15) calendar days.~~

~~(c)(b)~~ Provided, that this section shall not apply when impeachments are pending.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 18, is amended to read as follows:

§ 18. Presiding officers.

Each house, at the beginning of every regular session of the General Assembly occurring in an odd-numbered year, and whenever a vacancy may occur, shall elect from its members a presiding officer, to be styled, respectively, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and whenever, at the close of any session, it may appear that the term of the member elected President of the Senate will expire before the next regular session, the Senate shall elect another President from those members whose terms of office continue over, who shall qualify and remain President of the Senate until his successor may be elected and qualified; and who, in the case of a vacancy in the office of Governor, shall perform the duties and exercise the powers of Governor as elsewhere herein provided.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 34, is amended to read as follows:

§ 34. Introduction of bills – Time limit.

No new bill shall be introduced into either house during the last ~~three~~ five (5) days of a regular ~~or fiscal~~ session.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Constitution Article 5, § 42(b), is amended to read as follows:

(b) The review and approval by a legislative committee under subsection (a) of this section may occur during the interim or during a regular, ~~special~~, or ~~fiscal~~ special session of the General Assembly.

SECTION 6. BALLOT TITLE AND POPULAR NAME. When this proposed amendment is submitted to the electors of this state on the general election ballot:

(1) The title of this joint resolution shall be the ballot title; and

(2) The popular name shall be "A Constitutional Amendment to Repeal the Fiscal Session of the General Assembly and Provide for Annual Regular Sessions of the General Assembly that Shall Not Exceed Sixty (60) Days in Length".

/s/Davis