

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

SENATE BILL 536

By: Senator E. Cheatham

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ELECT MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS BY ZONE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ELECT MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS BY ZONE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-13-630(a), concerning the election of school board members, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1)(A) The board of directors of ~~any a~~ school district that has an average daily membership of fewer than two thousand (2,000) students shall ~~have the authority to~~ may provide by resolution adopted by a majority vote that a portion of the board members shall be elected by zone, at large, or a combination thereof.

(B)(i) The board of directors of a school district that has an average daily membership of two thousand (2,000) or more students shall be elected from:

(a) Five (5) or seven (7) single-member zones;

or

(b) Five (5) single-member zones and two (2)

at large.

(ii) A board of directors under subdivision

(a)(1)(B)(i) of this section that elects its members at large shall adopt a



resolution by a majority vote to determine which method under subdivision (a)(1)(B)(i) of this section the members of the board of directors shall be elected.

(2) After the board of directors adopts a resolution under this section to elect members of the board of directors by single-member zones, the county election commission of the county in which the largest portion of the school district lies shall establish, within the school district, boundaries for the election of members of the board of directors:

(A) That shall have substantially equal population based on the most recent available census information; and

(B) From which racial minorities may be represented on the board of directors in proportions reflected in the school district population as a whole.

(3)(A) A candidate for a position to be elected by zones shall reside in the zone.

(B) A member of the board of directors who is qualified to serve the zone he or she represents may succeed himself or herself when the board of directors converts from being elected at large to being elected by a method under subdivision (a)(1)(B)(i) of this section.

~~(3)~~(4) The names of the candidates for at-large board positions under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section shall appear upon the ballots throughout the school district.