

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

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

SENATE BILL 472

By: Senator J. English

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARDS OF DIRECTORS; TO AMEND THE TERM OF OFFICE OF A MEMBER OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS; TO AMEND THE DATE ON WHICH AN ELECTION OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL BE HELD; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE TERM OF OFFICE OF A MEMBER OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS; AND TO AMEND THE DATE ON WHICH AN ELECTION OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL BE HELD.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-13-608(a), concerning the term of office of a school district board of directors, is amended to read as follows:

(a) All members of a school district board of directors shall be elected to a term of office of ~~not less than three (3) years nor more than five (5) years in length and~~ four (4) years with the expiration of ~~such terms so arranged~~ each four-year term to be arranged so that, as nearly as possible, an equal number of positions are filled ~~in each year~~ in each school election.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-13-608, concerning the term of office of a school district board of directors, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:



(d) If an entire school district board of directors is elected during the same school election, the members of the school district board of directors who are elected during the same school election shall initially draw lots for two-year or four-year terms so that, as nearly as possible, an equal number of positions are filled in each subsequent school election.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-14-102(a)(1)(A), concerning the date of a special school election, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1)(A) ~~The~~ Except as provided under subsection (d) of this section, an annual school election shall be held in each school district of the state:

- (i) In even-numbered years, on the date of the:
 - (a) Preferential primary election; or
 - (b) General election; and
- (ii) In odd-numbered years, on the:
 - (a) First Tuesday following the first Monday in November; or
 - (b) Third Tuesday in May.

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

(c)(1) In ~~any~~ an election year in which the annual school election is not held at the same time as a preferential primary or general election, if ~~no more than one (1) candidate for any school district director position presents a petition or notice as required by § 6-14-111 and if~~ there are no other ballot issues to be submitted to school district electors for consideration, with the exception of the local tax rate if that rate is not being changed or restructured, the board of directors of ~~any~~ a school district, by resolution, may request the county board of election commissioners to:

- (A) Reduce the number of polling places;
- (B) Open no polling places on election day so that the election can be conducted by absentee ballot and early voting only; or
- (C) Open no polling places on election day and hold an election by candidate under the procedure in § 7-11-107(b).

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-14-102, concerning the date of a special

school election, is amended to additional subsections to read as follows:

(d) In school districts with an average daily membership of ten thousand (10,000) or more, the election of a school district board of directors shall be held in each public school district of the state in even-numbered years, on the date of the:

- (1) Preferential primary election; or
- (2) General election.

(e) In school districts with an average daily membership of less than ten thousand (10,000), the election of a school district board of directors may be held in each public school district of the state:

- (1) In even-numbered years on the date of the:
 - (A) Preferential primary election; or
 - (B) General election; or
- (2) On the date of the annual school election.