

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

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

SJR 2

By: Senator A. Clark

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONVENE IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION UPON THE REQUEST OF A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF EACH HOUSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; AND TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY EXTEND AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION CALLED AT THE REQUEST OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Subtitle

A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONVENE IN EXTRAORDINARILY SESSION UPON THE REQUEST OF A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF EACH HOUSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

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.

(e)(1) The General Assembly shall meet in extraordinary session upon the written request of a majority of the members of each house of the General Assembly.

(2) Upon the submission of one (1) or more petitions to the Governor containing the signatures of at least a majority of the members of each house of the General Assembly, the Governor shall issue a proclamation convening the General Assembly in extraordinary session at the requested time.

(3) The petitions submitted to the Governor and the proclamation issued by the Governor shall indicate without limitation:

(A) The purpose for which the General Assembly shall be convened; and

(B) The date and time at which the General Assembly shall be convened.

(4)(A) No other business than the purpose set forth in the petitions and the proclamation shall be transacted at the extraordinary session until the same shall have been disposed of; after which the General

Assembly may, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all the members elected to both houses, entered upon their journals, remain in session for a period not exceeding fifteen (15) days.

(B)(i) If the General Assembly has disposed of the purposes of the extraordinary session under this subsection (e) and the Governor has declared a disaster emergency applicable to all or a portion of the State of Arkansas, the General Assembly may, by a vote of a majority of all the members elected to both houses, entered upon their journals, remain in session for the duration of the disaster emergency.

(ii) If the General Assembly votes to remain in session under subdivision (e)(1)(B)(i) of this section, it may enact legislation necessary to resolve or mitigate the disaster emergency.

(iii) The General Assembly shall adjourn the extraordinary session within three (3) days of the termination of the disaster emergency declaration.

(5) This section does not restrict the authority of the Governor to convene an extraordinary session of the General Assembly under Arkansas Constitution, Article 6, § 19.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment shall be effective on and after November 9, 2022.

SECTION 3. 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 Allow the General Assembly to Convene in Extraordinary Session Upon the Request of a Majority of the Members of Each House of the General Assembly and to Provide for Certain Circumstances in Which the General Assembly May Extend an Extraordinary Session Called at the Request of the General Assembly".