

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

State of Arkansas  
95th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2025

## A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1331

By: Representatives Barnes, K. Ferguson, Holcomb

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING PROCEDURES OF THE COUNTY QUORUM COURT FOR ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS; TO REQUIRE THE COUNTY TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE UNDER THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE PRIOR YEAR UNTIL A NEW ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IS ADOPTED; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO REQUIRE A COUNTY TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE UNDER THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE PRIOR YEAR IF A NEW ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IS NOT ADOPTED; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 14-14-904(b)(1)(A)(ii), concerning the procedure for appropriations by a quorum court, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(c) If a quorum court does not pass an annual appropriation ordinance as required under subdivision (b)(1)(A)(ii)(a) of this section, expenditures of the county, including without limitation the payment of salaries to employees, shall continue to be paid under the annual appropriation ordinance from the previous year until a new annual appropriation ordinance is adopted.



SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that when a county quorum court does not pass an annual appropriation ordinance the county cannot provide basic services and the county employees cannot be paid; that this act will allow expenditures to be paid until an annual appropriation ordinance is in place; that the lack of an appropriation ordinance makes it impossible for the county to provide necessary services to the citizens of the county, which threatens the public peace, health, and safety of the residents of the county; and that this act is immediately necessary because failure to pass an annual appropriation ordinance puts county employees in financial distress and at risk of being unable to pay for financial responsibilities. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

- (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;
- (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or
- (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.