

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 83rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2001
4

As Engrossed: H2/19/01

A Bill

Act 767 of 2001
HOUSE BILL 1121

5 By: Representatives Bookout, Allison, Biggs, C. Taylor, *Broadway, King, Trammell, Shoffner*
6 By: Senator Faris
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS STATE ELECTION
11 IMPROVEMENT STUDY COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS STATE
15 ELECTION IMPROVEMENT STUDY COMMISSION.

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

20 SECTION 1. The Arkansas State Election Improvement Study Commission is
21 created for the purpose of studying the nature of the electoral process in
22 Arkansas and making recommendations to the General Assembly to ensure public
23 confidence in elections in this state.

25 SECTION 2. (a) The commission shall be composed of the following
26 members:

27 (1) The Secretary of State, who shall chair the commission;

28 (2) One (1) member of the House of Representatives to be
29 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

30 (3) One (1) member of the Senate to be appointed by the President
31 Pro Tempore of the Senate;

32 (4) One (1) member of the State Board of Election Commissioners
33 appointed by the chief executive officer of that board;

34 (5) One (1) county clerk from each congressional district
35 appointed by the chief executive officer of the Arkansas County Clerks
36 Association;

1 (6) One (1) prosecuting attorney designated by the chief
2 executive officer of the Arkansas Prosecuting Attorneys Association;

3 (7) One (1) person designated by the chair of the Democratic
4 Party of the State of Arkansas;

5 (8) One (1) person designated by the chair of the Republican
6 Party of the State of Arkansas;

7 (9) One (1) person designated by the chief executive officer of
8 the Arkansas League of Women Voters; and

9 (10) One (1) person designated by the Governor.

10 If any appointment is not made by July 1, 2001 the Secretary of State may
11 appoint a person meeting the qualifications prescribed for the position.

12 (c) If a vacancy arises in any position on the commission, the vacancy
13 shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

14 (d) A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a
15 quorum.

16 (e) Meetings of the commission shall be at the call of the chair.

17
18 SECTION 3. The commission shall conduct a study of the nature of the
19 electoral process including but not limited to the following:

20 (1) The feasibility and advisability of standardizing methods of voting
21 throughout Arkansas;

22 (2) Technological advances in voting methods, including the technology
23 used to cast and count votes;

24 (3) Voter registration issues, including same day registration,
25 universal registration, the impact of motor voter registration, and the
26 accuracy of the voter registration rolls;

27 (4) The feasibility and advisability of multiple day elections, weekend
28 elections, and expanding early voting options, with a particular emphasis on
29 the impact on voter turnout;

30 (5) The feasibility and advisability of changing the date of the
31 primary elections for the purpose of limiting the time period for campaigns;

32 (6) Federal laws, bills or proposals regarding the conduct of federal
33 elections; and

34 (7) Any other issues in the commission's discretion related to the
35 improvement of elections in Arkansas.

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1 SECTION 4. The commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such
2 times, places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the
3 commission may find advisable to fulfill the requirements of this act.
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5 SECTION 5. The Secretary of State shall provide staff for the
6 commission.
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8 SECTION 6. The commission shall make its final report to the General
9 Assembly and to the Governor not later than June 30, 2002. The final report
10 shall be filed with the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives
11 and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and shall set out the findings and
12 conclusions of the commission, and make recommendations for addressing
13 problems identified in the commission's analysis. Any member of the
14 commission may submit additional findings and recommendations as part of the
15 final report.
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17 SECTION 7. The commission shall expire on July 1, 2002.
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19 SECTION 8. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is hereby found and determined by the
20 Eighty-third General Assembly that the election process of this state should
21 be studied in a deliberate unrushed manner prior to the convening of the next
22 regular session of the General Assembly; that this act establishes a
23 commission to conduct that study; and that this act should go into effect as
24 soon as possible in order to give that commission the maximum amount of time
25 to properly conduct the study and make recommendations to the next General
26 Assembly. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being
27 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
28 safety shall become effective on the date of its approval by the Governor. If
29 the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, it shall become
30 effective on the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor
31 may veto the bill. If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
32 overridden, it shall become effective on the date the last house overrides the
33 veto.
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35 /s/ Bookout, et al.
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APPROVED: 3/14/2001