

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**


*TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME - GREETINGS:*

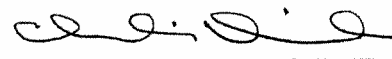
- WHEREAS,* an extraordinary occasion has arisen making it necessary to convene the 86<sup>th</sup> General Assembly into extraordinary session; and
- WHEREAS,* the State of Arkansas is rich in natural resources that enhance the economic well-being of the State and provide jobs and other economic benefits for the people; and
- WHEREAS,* the natural gas deposits found in the state represent a significant natural resource that must be managed carefully and extracted wisely to insure that depletion of this scarce resource is done responsibly and with the appropriate returns to the people from natural gas severed from the state; and
- WHEREAS,* it is now necessary to increase the current severance tax levied on natural gas as the tax has not been increased since 1957 rendering the tax lower than surrounding states that are reaping the benefits and income from this natural resource; and
- WHEREAS,* the revenue from the severance tax on natural gas should rightfully be invested in much needed repair, construction, maintenance and expansion of the state's highways by distributing the revenue to the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department and to the cities and counties for roads and highways; and
- WHEREAS,* there is an immediate and pressing need to provide additional state revenue necessary to pay for essential and critical state services by replacing the existing general revenue that will be lost from the repeal of the existing severance tax; and
- WHEREAS,* due to an inadvertent drafting error in the text of Act 441 of 2007, there exists confusion in the law as it relates to the minimum age to marry in Arkansas; and
- WHEREAS,* in Act 395 of 2007, the General Assembly set certain deadlines regarding the achievement of "unitary" status by school districts in Pulaski County, and those deadlines may need to be extended due to the congested trial calendar of the court supervising the Pulaski County desegregation case;
- NOW THEREFORE,* I, Mike Beebe, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution of this State, Article VI, Section 19, do hereby call an Extraordinary Session of the General Assembly to convene at the seat of government in the State Capitol on March 31, 2008, at 12:00 p.m., and I do hereby specify that the General Assembly is convened to consider, and, if so advised, enact laws for the following purposes:

1. To appropriate funds to pay the expenses and per diem of this Extraordinary Session of the General Assembly for the House of Representatives and the Senate and to amend Act 3 of 2007 to increase expenditure limits.
2. To confirm gubernatorial appointees.
3. To consider legislation providing for an increase in the severance tax levied on natural gas; providing that all taxes, penalties, and costs collected by the Director of the Department of Finance and Administration from the severance tax on natural gas shall be deposited in the state treasury and shall be distributed five percent (5%) to general revenues and ninety-five percent (95%) as special revenues to be distributed as provided in the Arkansas Highway Revenue Distribution Law, Ark. Code Ann. §27-70-201 *et seq.*
4. To consider an amendment to Act 395 of 2007 regarding the date school districts under the Pulaski County Desegregation Case are eligible for reimbursement based on unitary status declared by the federal district court.
5. To consider legislation that would repeal Act 441 of 2007, and reinstate the provisions of the Arkansas Code affected by Act 441.

*IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas. Done in Office at Little Rock, Arkansas the 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2008.



  
Mike Beebe, Governor

  
Charlie Daniels, Secretary of State