

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

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: S4/20/21*

2 93rd General Assembly

3 Regular Session, 2021

SJR 10

4

5 By: Senators B. Davis, T. Garner, Hill

6 By: Representatives Cavanaugh, Vaught, M. Gray, Lundstrum, Payton, B. Smith, Rye, Bentley, Brown,

7 Furman, Underwood, Lowery, Wooten, Beatty Jr., Gonzales, M. Berry, Dotson, McCollum, Gazaway,

8 Bryant, Evans, Richmond, C. Cooper

9

10

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION**

11

*AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW*

12

*THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONVENE IN EXTRAORDINARY*

13

*SESSION UPON THE ISSUANCE OF A JOINT WRITTEN*

14

*PROCLAMATION OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF*

15

*REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE*

16

*SENATE OR UPON THE SUBMISSION OF A WRITTEN*

17

*PROCLAMATION CONTAINING THE SIGNATURES OF AT LEAST*

18

*TWO-THIRDS (2/3) OF THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF*

19

*REPRESENTATIVES AND AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS (2/3) OF THE*

20

*MEMBERS OF THE SENATE TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF*

21

*REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE*

22

*SENATE REQUESTING THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENE*

23

*IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION; PROVIDING THAT NO BUSINESS*

24

*OTHER THAN THE PURPOSE SET FORTH IN THE JOINT WRITTEN*

25

*PROCLAMATION OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF*

26

*REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE*

27

*SENATE OR THE WRITTEN PROCLAMATION CONTAINING THE*

28

*SIGNATURES OF AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS (2/3) OF THE*

29

*MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND AT LEAST*

30

*TWO-THIRDS (2/3) OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE SHALL*

31

*BE CONSIDERED AT AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION CONVENED*

32

*UNDER THIS AMENDMENT; REQUIRING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY*

33

*TO ESTABLISH BY JOINT RULE DURING EACH REGULAR*

34

*SESSION PROCEDURES FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION UNDER*

35

*THIS AMENDMENT; AND PROVIDING THAT THIS AMENDMENT*

36

*DOES NOT RESTRICT THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNOR TO*



1                    *CONVENE AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL*  
2                    *ASSEMBLY UNDER ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 6, §*  
3                    *19.*

4  
5  
6                    **Subtitle**

7                    *AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION*  
8                    *CONCERNING EXTRAORDINARY SESSIONS OF THE*  
9                    *GENERAL ASSEMBLY.*

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11  
12                    BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
13                    STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, A MAJORITY OF ALL  
14                    MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

15  
16                    THAT the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of  
17                    the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state  
18                    for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives  
19                    and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election  
20                    adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of  
21                    the State of Arkansas, to wit:

22  
23                    SECTION 1. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 5, is amended to read  
24                    as follows:

25                    § 5. *Regular and fiscal sessions – Extraordinary sessions.*

26                    (a) The General Assembly shall meet at the seat of government every  
27                    year.

28                    (b) The General Assembly shall meet in regular session on the second  
29                    Monday in January of each odd-numbered year to consider any bill or  
30                    resolution. The General Assembly may alter the time at which the regular  
31                    session begins.

32                    (c)(1) Beginning in 2010, the General Assembly shall meet in fiscal  
33                    session on the second Monday in February of each even-numbered year to  
34                    consider only appropriation bills. The General Assembly may alter the time at  
35                    which the fiscal session begins.

36                    (2) A bill other than an appropriation bill may be considered in

1 a fiscal session if two-thirds (2/3) of the members of each house of the  
2 General Assembly approve consideration of the bill.

3 (d) The General Assembly, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members  
4 elected to each house of the General Assembly, may alter the dates of the  
5 regular session and fiscal session so that regular sessions occur in even  
6 numbered years and the fiscal sessions occur in odd-numbered years.

7 (e)(1) The General Assembly shall convene in extraordinary session  
8 upon the:

9 (A)(i) Issuance of a joint written proclamation of the  
10 Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the  
11 Senate.

12 (ii) The joint written proclamation under  
13 subdivision (e)(1)(A)(i) of this section shall include without limitation the  
14 purpose for which the General Assembly shall convene in extraordinary session  
15 and the date on which the General Assembly shall convene; or

16 (B)(i) Submission of a written proclamation containing the  
17 signatures of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the House of  
18 Representatives and at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Senate to  
19 the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of  
20 the Senate requesting that the General Assembly convene in extraordinary  
21 session.

22 (ii) The written proclamation under subdivision  
23 (e)(1)(B)(i) of this section shall include without limitation the purpose for  
24 which the General Assembly shall convene in extraordinary session.

25 (iii) Upon the submission of a written proclamation  
26 under subdivision (e)(1)(B)(i) of this section, the Speaker of the House of  
27 Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall specify a  
28 date on which the General Assembly shall convene in extraordinary session.

29 (2) No business other than the purpose set forth in the joint  
30 written proclamation under subdivision (e)(1)(A)(i) of this section or the  
31 written proclamation under subdivision (e)(1)(B)(i) of this section shall be  
32 considered at an extraordinary session under subdivision (e)(1) of this  
33 section.

34 (3)(A) During each regular session, the General Assembly shall  
35 establish by joint rule procedures for an extraordinary session under  
36 subdivision (e)(1) of this section.

1 (B) Joint rules established under subdivision (e)(3)(A) of  
2 this section may include without limitation:

3 (i) A limitation on the duration of an extraordinary  
4 session under subdivision (e)(1) of this section;

5 (ii) The format and required content for a written  
6 proclamation requesting that the General Assembly convene in extraordinary  
7 session under subdivision (e)(1)(B)(i) of this section; and

8 (iii) A provision permitting the General Assembly,  
9 after having disposed of the purpose for which the extraordinary session was  
10 convened under subdivision (e)(1) of this section, to remain in session for a  
11 period not exceeding fifteen (15) days if remaining in session is approved by  
12 a vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the House of  
13 Representatives and at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Senate  
14 and entered upon their journals.

15 (C) Rules established under subdivision (e)(3)(A) of this  
16 section may be amended by the General Assembly.

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

20  
21 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment shall be effective on and  
22 after November 9, 2022.

23  
24 SECTION 3. BALLOT TITLE AND POPULAR NAME. When this proposed  
25 amendment is submitted to the electors of this state on the general election  
26 ballot:

27 (1) The title of this Joint Resolution shall be the ballot  
28 title; and

29 (2) The popular name shall be "A Constitutional Amendment to  
30 Allow the General Assembly to Convene in Extraordinary Session Upon the  
31 Issuance of a Joint Written Proclamation of the Speaker of the House of  
32 Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate or Upon the  
33 Submission of a Written Proclamation Containing the Signatures of At Least  
34 Two-Thirds (2/3) of the Members of the House of Representatives and At Least  
35 Two-Thirds (2/3) of the Members of the Senate to the Speaker of the House of  
36 Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate Requesting that

1 the General Assembly Convene in Extraordinary Session".

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*/s/B. Davis*

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