

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: S3/1/23 H3/7/23*

2 94th General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2023

SENATE BILL 273

4

5 By: Senators J. Petty, K. Hammer, Dees, M. McKee, Stone

6 By: Representatives McAlindon, Wing, Achor, Andrews, Barker, Beaty Jr., Beck, Bentley, M. Berry,

7 Breaux, Brooks, K. Brown, M. Brown, Burkes, Joey Carr, C. Cooper, Cozart, Evans, C. Fite, L. Fite,

8 Fortner, Furman, Gazaway, Gonzales, Gramlich, Haak, Hawk, Hollowell, Jean, Ladyman, Long,

9 Lundstrum, Lynch, McClure, McCollum, M. McElroy, McGrew, B. McKenzie, McNair, S. Meeks,

10 Miller, Milligan, K. Moore, Pilkington, Puryear, R. Scott Richardson, Richmond, Rose, Rye, Tosh,

11 Underwood, Vaught, Womack, Wooten

12

13

For An Act To Be Entitled

14

AN ACT TO AMEND ELECTION LAW CONCERNING POLLING

15

SITES; TO AMEND THE LOCATION OF VOTE CENTERS; AND FOR

16

OTHER PURPOSES.

17

18

19

Subtitle

20

TO AMEND ELECTION LAW CONCERNING POLLING

21

SITES; AND TO AMEND THE LOCATION OF VOTE

22

CENTERS.

23

24

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

26

27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-5-101(e)(2), concerning the establishment
28 and alteration of precinct boundaries, polling sites, and vote centers, is
29 amended to read as follows:

30

(2)(A)(i) Except for school elections under § 6-14-106, a vote
31 center location for each election shall be the same as that established for
32 the immediately preceding general election unless changed by order of the
33 county board of election commissioners.

34

(ii) When a runoff is required in a county that only
35 utilizes vote centers, the vote centers for the runoff election shall be the
36 vote centers that are located within a precinct composed of qualified



1 electors who are eligible to vote in that runoff election.

2 (iii) When a runoff election is required in a county
3 that only utilizes vote centers and where no vote center is located in one or
4 more precincts composed of qualified electors participating in the runoff
5 election, the county board of election commissioners shall:

6 (a) Establish one (1) or more vote centers
7 within the jurisdiction for which the runoff election is being conducted
8 prior to the publication of the notice of election; or

9 (b) Open a vote center at the county seat if
10 no polling site is otherwise available on election day under this section.

11 (B)(i) The county board of election commissioners shall
12 not change a vote center location ~~for any precinct~~ less than ~~thirty (30)~~
13 sixty (60) days before an a preferential primary election or general
14 election, except in the event of an emergency.

15 (ii) The county board of election commissioners
16 shall not change a vote center location less than thirty (30) days before an
17 election other than for a preferential primary or general election, except in
18 the event of an emergency.

19 (iii) The county board of election commissioners may
20 establish a new vote center for an election less than thirty (30) days before
21 an election if a majority of the county board of election commissioners
22 determines the existing vote centers do not adequately serve the county's
23 qualified electors.

24 (iv) A vote center established under subdivision
25 (e)(2)(B)(iii) of this section shall be included in the notice of election.

26
27 /s/J. Petty
28

29
30 **APPROVED: 3/30/23**
31
32
33
34
35
36