

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2023-064

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023

A Bill

SENATE BILL 420

4
5
6 By: Senator J. Dotson
7 By: Representative A. Collins

8 Filed with: Senate Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs
9 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

For An Act To Be Entitled

10
11 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE REDISTRICTING
12 OF PRECINCTS; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE
13 REPORTING OF ELECTION RESULTS; AND FOR OTHER
14 PURPOSES.

Subtitle

15
16
17 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE
18 REDISTRICTING OF PRECINCTS; AND TO AMEND
19 THE LAW CONCERNING THE REPORTING OF
20 ELECTION RESULTS.
21

22
23
24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

25
26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-5-101(b)(4), concerning the establishment
27 and alteration of precinct boundaries, polling sites, and vote centers, is
28 amended to read as follows:

29 (4)(A) An order to alter the boundaries of any precinct or
30 establish any new one shall not be effective until it has been filed with the
31 county clerk.

32 (B) The order shall contain:

33 (i) A written description of the boundaries of the
34 precinct;

35 (ii) A printed map of the boundaries of the precincts
36 altered or established; ~~and~~

1 (iii) A digital map detailing the precinct boundaries
2 altered or established in a format prescribed by the Arkansas Geographic
3 Information Systems Office; and

4 (iv) The numerical codes designated for each
5 precinct.

6 (5) When redistricting the county board of election
7 commissioners shall:

8 (A) Designate precincts using a six digit numeric
9 code:

10 (i) The beginning three digits shall be the
11 Federal Information Processing Series numerical county location code used by
12 the United States Bureau of the Census;

13 (ii) The last three digits of the numeric code
14 shall be designated by the county board of election commissioners; and

15 (iii) A sequential numerical system beginning
16 with the precinct located in the northwest of the county;

17 (B) Ensure that precincts are numbered consecutively
18 with contiguous precincts having consecutive numbers;

19 (C) Develop precincts that are:

20 (i) Contiguous;

21 (ii) Compact;

22 (iii) Easily identifiable and understandable
23 by the voters; and

24 (iv) Easy to locate on a map of the county.

25 (6) As used in subdivision (b)(5)(C)(i), "contiguous"
26 means the boundaries of the precinct:

27 (i) Are touching;

28 (ii) Use major roads, railways, or other similar
29 infrastructure to delineate a portion of the outer boundary of the precinct,
30 if major roads, railways or other similar infrastructure is available; and

31 (iii) Use the edge of the body of water if possible
32 if the body of water is adjacent to or within the precinct, or the center of
33 the body of water if the body of water is not fully included in the precinct.

34

1 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-5-701(a)(3), concerning the declaration,
2 certification, delivery, and custody of election results and return, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (3)(A) As results are received and tabulated on election night
5 for all state and federal elections, the county board of election
6 commissioners shall declare preliminary and unofficial results of the
7 election as soon as early voting, absentee, or individual precinct results
8 are tabulated on election night and immediately shall transmit the results by
9 precinct using the six digit numeric code precinct number to the Secretary of
10 State through the election night reporting interface provided by the
11 Secretary of State.

12 (B) The county board of election commissioners may, by
13 agreement with the county clerk, transmit the results to the county clerk who
14 immediately shall transmit the results by precinct using the six digit
15 numeric code precinct number to the Secretary of State under subdivision
16 (a)(3)(A) of this section.

17
18 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-5-701(a)(3)(C)(ii), concerning the
19 declaration, certification, delivery, and custody of election results and
20 return, is amended to read as follows:

21 (ii) Immediately transmit the results by precinct
22 using the six digit numeric code precinct number to the Secretary of State
23 through the election night reporting interface provided by the Secretary of
24 State.

25
26 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 7-5-701(a)(3)(D) and (E), concerning the
27 declaration, certification, delivery, and custody of election results and
28 return, are amended to read as follows:

29 (D) The county board of election commissioners may, by
30 agreement with the county clerk, transmit the results to the county clerk who
31 shall immediately transmit the results by precinct using the six digit
32 numeric code precinct number to the Secretary of State as described in
33 subdivision (a)(3)(C) of this section.

34 (E) The Secretary of State may establish policies and
35 procedures to accomplish the objectives set forth under this section and the
36 format of the six digit numeric code precinct number.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36

SECTION 5. DO NOT CODIFY. Designation of precinct boundaries and six digit numeric code precinct number.

Before the general election in 2028, each county board of election commissioners shall establish all precinct boundaries under § 7-5-101 and designate the precincts using the six digit numeric code precinct number.

Referred requested by the Arkansas Senate
Prepared by: MLD/SJA