

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1531

5 By: Representative G. Hodges
6 By: Senator J. Dotson
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW TO ALLOW QUALIFIED ELECTORS
10 OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO HAVE PLACED ON A BALLOT OF AN
11 ANNUAL SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION THE ISSUE AS TO WHETHER
12 TO ELECT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS FROM
13 SINGLE-MEMBER ZONES, AT LARGE, OR A COMBINATION OF
14 SINGLE-MEMBER ZONES AND AT LARGE; AND FOR OTHER
15 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

19 TO AMEND THE LAW TO ALLOW QUALIFIED
20 ELECTORS TO DETERMINE THE ISSUE AS TO
21 WHETHER TO ELECT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
22 BOARD OF DIRECTORS FROM SINGLE-MEMBER
23 ZONES, AT LARGE, OR A COMBINATION OF
24 SINGLE-MEMBER ZONES AND AT LARGE.
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27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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29 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-13-615 is amended to read as follows:

30 6-13-615. Local option to elect directors from single-member zones, at
31 large, or combination of single-member zones and at large.

32 (a)(1) Qualified electors of a school district may, by petition, have
33 placed on the ballot of any annual school election the issue to determine
34 whether to elect the school district board of directors ~~from:~~

35 (A) From single-member zones;

36 (B) At large; or



1 (C) A combination of single-member zones and at large.

2 (2) The petitions calling for ~~such an~~ the issue under
3 subdivision (a)(1) of this section to be placed on the ballot shall be signed
4 by not less than ten percent (10%) of the qualified electors of ~~the a~~ a school
5 district, based upon the total number of registered voters in the school
6 district.

7 (3) The petitions may be circulated between ninety (90) days and
8 forty-five (45) days before the election date.

9 (4) The petitions shall be filed with the county election
10 commission of the county in which the largest portion of the school district
11 lies.

12 (b)(1) Within ten (10) days of the receipt and verification of the
13 sufficiency of the petitions required under subsection (a) of this section,
14 the county election commission shall notify the board of directors of the
15 affected school district that the issue shall be placed on the ballot of the
16 next school board election.

17 (2) The county election commission shall specify the wording of
18 the ballot to be used to determine whether to elect the school district board
19 of directors from single-member zones, at large, or a combination of single-
20 member zones and at large.

21 (c) If a majority of the qualified electors of ~~the a~~ a school district
22 ~~shall~~ vote for the election of the school district board of directors from
23 single-member zones or a combination of single-member zones and at large, the
24 county election commission of the county in which the largest portion of the
25 school district lies shall establish, within the school district, boundaries
26 for the election of directors of the school district board of directors,
27 which shall have substantially equal population based on the most recent
28 available census ~~information and from which racial minorities may be~~
29 ~~represented on the board of directors in proportions reflected in the school~~
30 ~~district population as a whole.~~

31 (d)(1) The members of the school district board of directors ~~of the~~
32 ~~school district~~ shall be elected for a ~~three-year~~ four-year term.

33 (2) ~~Provided, any~~ A member of the school district board of
34 directors shall hold office until his or her successor has been elected and
35 qualified.

36 (3) A member of the school district board of directors who is

1 qualified to serve the zone he or she represents may succeed himself or
 2 herself.

3 (e)(1) Following ~~the~~ a school board election, ~~the~~ a new school
 4 district board of directors at ~~their~~ the initial meeting shall, by lot,
 5 establish ~~their~~ initial terms so that, as closely as possible, an equal
 6 number of positions are filled during each year ~~and not more than three~~ ~~(3)~~
 7 ~~members' terms expire each year~~ school board election.

8 (2) The regular term of office for ~~the~~ a school district board
 9 of directors elected after the initial election following the decision to
 10 elect from single-member zones shall be the same as the term of the school
 11 district board of directors of the school district before the change in the
 12 method of election of the school district board of directors.

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