STATE OF ARKANSAS

As Engrossed:  S1/25/17

A Bill

SENATE BILL 143

Regular Session, 2017

By: Senator J. Cooper

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REVISE VARIOUS PROVISIONS CONCERNING
ELECTION PROCEDURES IN WHICH A MAYORAL CANDIDATE
RECEIVES LESS THAN A MAJORITY; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REVISE VARIOUS PROVISIONS CONCERNING
ELECTION PROCEDURES.

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

SECTION 1.  Arkansas Code § 14-43-304 is amended to read as follows:


(a)(1)  No mayor of cities A mayor of a city of the first class having
a mayor-council form of government shall be elected except:

(A)  by a majority vote of the qualified electors of the
city; or

(B)  In accordance with § 7-5-106.

(2)  The provisions of this section shall not apply to a city of the first class with a city manager form of government
or a city administrator form of government.

(b)(1)  As soon as the returns from all precincts are received, but in
no event no later than the seventh fifteenth day after the election, the
county board of election commissioners shall proceed to ascertain, from the
certificates and ballots received from the several precincts, and declare the
result of the election and deliver a certificate of his or her election to
any person having the majority requisite amount of legal votes for the office
of mayor.

(2) The county board of election commissioners shall also file in the office of the clerk of the county court a certificate setting forth in detail the results of the election.

(c)(1) **In the event that If** no candidate for mayor of a city of the first class receives a majority the requisite amount of the votes cast in the general election, the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be certified to a special runoff election that shall be held three (3) weeks from the day on which the general election is held.

(2) The special runoff election shall be conducted in the same manner as provided by law, and the election results thereof of the special runoff election shall be canvassed and certified in the manner provided by law.

(d) **In the event that If** a vacancy occurs in the office of mayor of these cities a city described in this section and the unexpired term is more than one (1) year, the vacancy shall be filled by a special election and special runoff election, if necessary, as provided in subsection (c) of this section.

/s/J. Cooper

**APPROVED: 02/15/2017**