

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

1 State of Arkansas  
2 91st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2017

SJR 1

4  
5 By: Senators J. Hendren, K. Ingram, Bledsoe

6  
7 **SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION**

8 AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO REDUCE  
9 THE NUMBER OF DAYS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS IN  
10 SESSION; TO REPEAL THE FISCAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL  
11 ASSEMBLY; AND TO PROVIDE THAT AN APPROPRIATION MADE  
12 BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOT BE FOR A LONGER PERIOD  
13 THAN TWO (2) YEARS.

14  
15  
16 **Subtitle**

17 A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REDUCE THE  
18 NUMBER OF DAYS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS IN  
19 SESSION; AND REPEALING THE FISCAL SESSION  
20 OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

21  
22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
23 STATE OF ARKANSAS AND BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, A MAJORITY OF ALL  
24 MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

25  
26 That the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of  
27 the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state  
28 for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives  
29 and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election  
30 adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of  
31 the State of Arkansas, to wit:

32  
33 SECTION 1. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 5, is amended to read  
34 as follows:

35 § 5. Regular ~~and fiscal~~ sessions.

36 (a) The General Assembly shall meet at the seat of government every



1 ~~year~~ two (2) years.

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

6 ~~(c)(1) Beginning in 2010, the General Assembly shall meet in fiscal~~  
 7 ~~session on the second Monday in February of each even numbered year to~~  
 8 ~~consider only appropriation bills. The General Assembly may alter the time~~  
 9 ~~at which the fiscal session begins.~~

10 ~~(2) A bill other than an appropriation bill may be considered in~~  
 11 ~~a fiscal session if two thirds (2/3) of the members of each house of the~~  
 12 ~~General Assembly approve consideration of the bill.~~

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

17  
 18 SECTION 2. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 17, is amended to read  
 19 as follows:

20 § 17. Duration of sessions.

21 (a) A regular biennial session shall not exceed sixty (60) calendar  
 22 days in duration, unless extended by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the  
 23 members elected to each house of the General Assembly. ~~The regular biennial~~  
 24 ~~session shall not exceed seventy five (75) calendar days in duration, unless~~  
 25 ~~extended by a vote of three fourths (¾) of the members elected to each house~~  
 26 ~~of the General Assembly.~~

27 ~~(b) A fiscal session shall not exceed thirty (30) calendar days in~~  
 28 ~~duration, except that by a vote of three fourths (¾) of the members elected~~  
 29 ~~to each house of the General Assembly a fiscal session may be extended one~~  
 30 ~~(1) time by no more than fifteen (15) calendar days.~~

31 ~~(c)(b)~~ Provided, that this section shall not apply when impeachments  
 32 are pending.

33  
 34 SECTION 3. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 29, is amended to read  
 35 as follows:

36 § 29. Appropriations.

1 Except as provided in Arkansas Constitution, Article 19, § 31, no money  
2 shall be drawn from the treasury except in pursuance of specific  
3 appropriation made by law, the purpose of which shall be distinctly stated in  
4 the bill, and the maximum amount which may be drawn shall be specified in  
5 dollars and cents; and no appropriations made by the General Assembly after  
6 December 31, ~~2008~~ 2018, shall be for a longer period than ~~one (1) fiscal year~~  
7 two (2) years.

8  
9 SECTION 4. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 34, is amended to read  
10 as follows:

11 § 34. Introduction of bills – Time limit.

12 No new bill shall be introduced into either house during the last three  
13 days of a regular ~~or fiscal~~ session.

14  
15 SECTION 5. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 39, is amended to read  
16 as follows:

17 [§ 39.] State expenses – Limitation – Exceptions.

18 § 3. Excepting monies raised or collected for educational purposes,  
19 highway purposes, to pay Confederate pensions and the just debts of the  
20 State, the General Assembly is hereby prohibited from appropriating or  
21 expending more than the sum of Two and One-Half Million Dollars for all  
22 purposes, for any ~~fiscal year~~ biennial period; provided the limit herein  
23 fixed may be exceeded by the votes of three-fourths of the members elected to  
24 each House of the General Assembly.

25  
26 SECTION 6. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 40, is amended to read  
27 as follows:

28 [§ 40.] General appropriation bill – Enactment.

29 § 4. In making appropriations for any ~~fiscal year~~ biennial period, the  
30 General Assembly shall first pass the General Appropriation Bill provided for  
31 in Section 30 of Article 5 of the Constitution, and no other appropriation  
32 bill may be enacted before that shall have been done.

33  
34 SECTION 7. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 42(b), concerning the  
35 review and approval of administrative rules by a legislative committee, is  
36 amended to read as follows:

1 (b) The review and approval by a legislative committee under  
 2 subsection (a) of this section may occur during the interim or during a  
 3 regular, or special, or fiscal session of the General Assembly.

4  
 5 SECTION 8. Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 35, § 7, concerning the  
 6 Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, is amended to read as follows:

7 § 7. Executive secretary and other personnel – Selection – Salaries  
 8 and expenditures.

9 The Commission shall elect an Executive Secretary, whose salary shall  
 10 not exceed that of limitations placed on other constitutional departments;  
 11 and other executive officers, supervisor, personnel, office assistants,  
 12 wardens, game refuge keepers, and hatchery employees, whose salaries and  
 13 expenditures must be submitted to the Legislature and approved by an Act  
 14 covering specific items in the biennial appropriation as covered by Article  
 15 XVI Section 4 of the Constitution.

16  
 17 SECTION 9. Nothing in this amendment shall be construed to alter the  
 18 Governor's authority to call a special session of the General Assembly.

19  
 20 SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment is effective on and after  
 21 January 1, 2019.

22  
 23 SECTION 11. BALLOT TITLE AND POPULAR NAME. When this proposed  
 24 amendment is submitted to the electors of this state on the general election  
 25 ballot:

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

28 (2) The popular name shall be "An Amendment to the Arkansas  
 29 Constitution to Reduce the Number of Days the General Assembly is in Session  
 30 by Repealing the Fiscal Session of the General Assembly and Providing that an  
 31 Appropriation by the General Assembly not be for a Longer Period than Two (2)  
 32 Years".