

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

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005

HJR 1001

4
5 By: Representative Harris
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7

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

9 PROPOSING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REDUCE
10 THE PERIOD FOR WHICH APPROPRIATION BILLS ARE
11 VALID FROM TWO YEARS TO ONE (1) FISCAL YEAR; TO
12 REQUIRE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO MEET IN A LIMITED
13 FISCAL SESSION DURING EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS TO
14 CONSIDER APPROPRIATION BILLS; AND TO MAKE
15 CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO REFLECT THE CHANGES
16 PROPOSED IN THIS AMENDMENT.

Subtitle

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18
19 PROPOSES CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO
20 REDUCE PERIOD FOR WHICH APPROPRIATION
21 BILLS ARE VALID FROM TWO YEARS TO ONE
22 FISCAL YEAR; REQUIRES GENERAL ASSEMBLY
23 TO MEET IN FISCAL SESSION DURING EVEN-
24 NUMBERED YEARS.

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26
27 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-FIFTH GENERAL
28 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND BY THE SENATE, A MAJORITY OF ALL
29 MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING:

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31 THAT the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of
32 the State of Arkansas, and that if a majority of the electors voting at the
33 next general election for Representatives and Senators adopt this amendment,
34 it shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, to wit:

35
36 SECTION 1. Section 5 of Article 5 of the Arkansas Constitution is



1 amended to read as follows:

2 § 5. ~~Time of meeting~~ Regular and fiscal sessions.

3 (a) The General Assembly shall meet at the seat of government every
4 ~~two years, on the first Tuesday after the second Monday in November, until~~
5 ~~said time be altered by law~~ year.

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

10 (c)(1) Beginning in 2008, the General Assembly shall meet in fiscal
11 session on the second Monday in February of each even-numbered year to
12 consider only appropriation bills. The General Assembly may alter the time
13 at which the fiscal session begins.

14 (2) A bill other than an appropriation bill may be considered in
15 a fiscal session if two-thirds of the members of each house of the General
16 Assembly approve consideration of the bill.

17

18 SECTION 2. Section 17 of Article 5 of the Arkansas Constitution is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 § 17. Duration of sessions.

21 (a) The regular biennial sessions, shall not exceed sixty days in
22 duration; unless by a vote of two-thirds of the members elected to each house
23 of said General Assembly. Provided, that this section shall not apply ~~to the~~
24 ~~first session of the General Assembly under this Constitution, or when~~
25 impeachments are pending.

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

30

31 SECTION 3. Section 29 of Article 5 of the Constitution of Arkansas is
32 amended to read as follows:

33 § 29. Appropriations.

34 No money shall be drawn from the treasury except in pursuance of
35 specific appropriation made by law, the purpose of which shall be distinctly
36 stated in the bill, and the maximum amount which may be drawn shall be

1 specified in dollars and cents; and no appropriations made by the General
2 Assembly after December 31, 2006, shall be for a longer period than ~~two years~~
3 one (1) fiscal year.

4
5 SECTION 4. Section 34 of Article 5 of the Arkansas Constitution is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 § 34. Introduction of bills - Time limit.

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

10
11 SECTION 5. Section 39 of Article 5 of the Arkansas Constitution is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 [§ 39.] State expenses - Limitation - Exceptions.

14 § 3. Excepting monies raised or collected for educational purposes,
15 highway purposes, to pay Confederate pensions and the just debts of the
16 State, the General Assembly is hereby prohibited from appropriating or
17 expending more than the sum of Two and One-Half Million Dollars for all
18 purposes, for any ~~biennial period~~ fiscal year; provided the limit herein
19 fixed may be exceeded by the votes of three-fourths of the members elected to
20 each House of the General Assembly. [As added to Art. 5 by Const. Amend. 19.]

21
22 SECTION 6. Section 40 of Article 5 of the Arkansas Constitution is
23 amended to read as follows:

24 [§ 40.] General appropriation bill - Enactment.

25 § 4. In making appropriations for any ~~biennial period~~ fiscal year, the
26 General Assembly shall first pass the General Appropriation Bill provided for
27 in Section 30 of Article 5 of the Constitution, and no other appropriation
28 bill may be enacted before that shall have been done. [As added to Art. 5 by
29 Const. Amend. 19.]

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31 SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment shall become effective on
32 January 1, 2007.