

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

1 State of Arkansas
2 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007
4
5 By: Representative Harris
6 By: Senator B. Pritchard
7

HJR 1004

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

10 PROPOSING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REDUCE
11 THE PERIOD FOR WHICH APPROPRIATION BILLS ARE
12 VALID FROM TWO (2) YEARS TO ONE (1) FISCAL YEAR;
13 TO REQUIRE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO MEET IN A
14 LIMITED FISCAL SESSION DURING EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS
15 TO CONSIDER APPROPRIATION BILLS; TO ESTABLISH THE
16 LENGTH OF SESSIONS; AND TO MAKE CONFORMING
17 AMENDMENTS TO REFLECT THE CHANGES PROPOSED IN
18 THIS AMENDMENT.

Subtitle

21 PROPOSING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO
22 PROVIDE THAT APPROPRIATION BILLS ARE
23 VALID FOR ONE FISCAL YEAR; TO REQUIRE
24 GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO MEET IN FISCAL
25 SESSION DURING EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS; AND
26 TO SET LENGTH OF SESSIONS.

29 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-SIXTH GENERAL
30 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND BY THE SENATE, A MAJORITY OF ALL
31 MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING:

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



1
2 SECTION 1. Section 5 of Article 5 of the Arkansas Constitution is
3 amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

12 (c)(1) Beginning in 2010, the General Assembly shall meet in fiscal
13 session on the second Monday in February of each even-numbered year to
14 consider only appropriation bills. The General Assembly may alter the time
15 at which the fiscal session begins.

16 (2) A bill other than an appropriation bill may be considered in
17 a fiscal session if two-thirds (2/3) of the members of each house of the
18 General Assembly approve consideration of the bill.

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

22 § 17. Duration of sessions.

23 ~~The regular biennial sessions, shall not exceed sixty days in duration;~~
24 ~~unless by a vote of two thirds of the members elected to each house of said~~
25 ~~General Assembly.~~

26 (a) A regular biennial session shall not exceed sixty (60) calendar
27 days in duration, unless extended by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the
28 members elected to each house of the General Assembly. The regular biennial
29 session shall not exceed seventy five (75) calendar days in duration, unless
30 extended by a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the members elected to each
31 house of the General Assembly.

32 (b) A fiscal session shall not exceed thirty (30) calendar days in
33 duration, except that by a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the members elected
34 to each house of the General Assembly a fiscal session may be extended one
35 (1) time by no more than fifteen (15) calendar days.

36 (c) Provided, that this section shall not apply to the first session of

1 ~~the General Assembly under this Constitution,~~ or when impeachments are
2 pending.

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

6 § 29. Appropriations.

7 No money shall be drawn from the treasury except in pursuance of
8 specific appropriation made by law, the purpose of which shall be distinctly
9 stated in the bill, and the maximum amount which may be drawn shall be
10 specified in dollars and cents; and no appropriations made by the General
11 Assembly after December 31, 2008, shall be for a longer period than ~~two years~~
12 one (1) fiscal year.

13
14 SECTION 4. Section 34 of Article 5 of the Arkansas Constitution is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 § 34. Introduction of bills - Time limit.

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

19
20 SECTION 5. Section 39 of Article 5 of the Arkansas Constitution is
21 amended to read as follows:

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

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

30
31 SECTION 6. Section 40 of Article 5 of the Arkansas Constitution is
32 amended to read as follows:

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

34 § 4. In making appropriations for any ~~biennial period~~ fiscal year, the
35 General Assembly shall first pass the General Appropriation Bill provided for
36 in Section 30 of Article 5 of the Constitution, and no other appropriation

1 bill may be enacted before that shall have been done. [As added to Art. 5 by
2 Const. Amend. 19.]

3
4 SECTION 7. Section 7 of Amendment 35 to the Arkansas Constitution,
5 concerning the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, is amended to read as
6 follows:

7 7. Executive secretary and other personnel - Selection - Salaries and
8 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 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment shall become effective on
18 January 1, 2009.