

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

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/23/07*
2 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007 HJR 1004
4
5 By: Representatives Harris, *Adcock, R. Green, Greenberg, Hardwick, Jeffrey, Ragland, Reynolds,*
6 *Rosenbaum, Saunders, Sumpter*
7 By: Senator B. Pritchard
8
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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

11 PROPOSING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REDUCE
12 THE PERIOD FOR WHICH APPROPRIATION BILLS ARE
13 VALID FROM TWO (2) YEARS TO ONE (1) FISCAL YEAR;
14 TO REQUIRE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO MEET IN A
15 LIMITED FISCAL SESSION DURING EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS
16 TO CONSIDER APPROPRIATION BILLS; TO ESTABLISH THE
17 LENGTH OF SESSIONS; AND TO MAKE CONFORMING
18 AMENDMENTS TO REFLECT THE CHANGES PROPOSED IN
19 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.
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30 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-SIXTH GENERAL
31 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND BY THE SENATE, A MAJORITY OF ALL
32 MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING:
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34 THAT the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of
35 the State of Arkansas, and that if a majority of the electors voting at the
36 next general election for Representatives and Senators adopt this amendment,



1 it shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, to wit:

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 (d) The General Assembly, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members
21 elected to each house of the General Assembly, may alter the dates of the
22 regular session and fiscal session so that regular sessions occur in even-
23 numbered years and the fiscal sessions occur in odd-numbered years.

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

27 § 17. Duration of sessions.

28 The regular biennial sessions, shall not exceed sixty days in duration,
29 unless by a vote of two thirds of the members elected to each house of said
30 General Assembly.

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

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

5 (c) Provided, that this section shall not apply to the first session of
6 the General Assembly under this Constitution, or when impeachments are
7 pending.

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

11 § 29. Appropriations.

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

18
19 SECTION 4. Section 34 of Article 5 of the Arkansas Constitution is
20 amended to read as follows:

21 § 34. Introduction of bills - Time limit.

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

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25 SECTION 5. Section 39 of Article 5 of the Arkansas Constitution is
26 amended to read as follows:

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

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

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36 SECTION 6. Section 40 of Article 5 of the Arkansas Constitution is

1 amended to read as follows:

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

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

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9 SECTION 7. Section 7 of Amendment 35 to the Arkansas Constitution,
10 concerning the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, is amended to read as
11 follows:

12 7. Executive secretary and other personnel - Selection - Salaries and
13 expenditures.

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

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22 SECTION 8. Nothing in this amendment shall be construed to alter the
23 Governor's authority to call a special session of the General Assembly.

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25 SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment shall become effective on
26 January 1, 2009.

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28 /s/ Harris, et al

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