

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

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009

SJR 7

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5 By: Senator Malone
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7

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

9 PROPOSING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISH
10 THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL MEET IN REGULAR
11 SESSION ONE TIME EVERY TWO YEARS; TO REPEAL THE
12 AUTHORIZATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO MEET IN
13 FISCAL SESSIONS DURING EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS; TO
14 PROVIDE THAT APPROPRIATION BILLS ARE VALID FOR
15 TWO (2) YEARS; AND TO MAKE CONFORMING AMENDMENTS
16 TO REFLECT THE CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS
17 AMENDMENT.
18

Subtitle

19
20 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT THAT THE
21 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL MEET ONE TIME
22 EVERY TWO YEARS; TO REPEAL FISCAL
23 SESSIONS DURING EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS; AND
24 TO PROVIDE THAT APPROPRIATION BILLS ARE
25 VALID FOR TWO (2) YEARS.
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27

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

32 That the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of
33 the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state
34 for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives
35 and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election
36 adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of



1 the State of Arkansas, to wit:

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

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

6 (a) The General Assembly shall meet at the seat of government every
 7 ~~year~~ two (2) years, on the first Tuesday after the second Monday in November.

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

23
 24 SECTION 2. Section 17 of Article 5 of the Arkansas Constitution is
 25 amended to read as follows:

26 § 17. Duration of sessions.

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

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

1 sessions shall not exceed sixty (60) days in duration unless by a vote of
 2 two-thirds (2/3) of the members elected to each house of the General
 3 Assembly.

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

7
 8 SECTION 3. Section 29 of Article 5 of the Constitution of Arkansas is
 9 amended to read as follows:

10 § 29. Appropriations.

11 No money shall be drawn from the treasury except in pursuance of
 12 specific appropriation made by law, the purpose of which shall be distinctly
 13 stated in the bill, and the maximum amount which may be drawn shall be
 14 specified in dollars and cents; and no appropriations made by the General
 15 Assembly after December 31, 2008 2010, shall be for a longer period than one
 16 (1) fiscal year two (2) years.

17
 18 SECTION 4. Section 34 of Article 5 of the Arkansas Constitution is
 19 amended to read as follows:

20 § 34. Introduction of bills - Time limit.

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

23
 24 SECTION 5. Section 39 of Article 5 of the Arkansas Constitution is
 25 amended to read as follows:

26 § 39. State expenses - Limitation - Exceptions.

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

34
 35 SECTION 6. Section 40 of Article 5 of the Arkansas Constitution is
 36 amended to read as follows:

1 § 40. General appropriation bill - Enactment.

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

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

10 7. Executive secretary and other personnel - Selection - Salaries and
11 expenditures.

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

19
20 SECTION 8. This amendment shall not construed to alter the Governor's
21 authority to call a special session of the General Assembly.

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23 SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment is effective on January 1,
24 2011.