

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

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015

HJR 1002

4
5 By: Representative D. Douglas
6

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

8 AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO ABOLISH
9 THE FISCAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; TO
10 PROVIDE THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEET EVERY TWO (2)
11 YEARS; AND TO PROVIDE THAT AN APPROPRIATION MADE BY
12 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOT BE FOR A LONGER PERIOD THAN
13 TWO (2) YEARS.
14

Subtitle

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16
17 AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION
18 TO ABOLISH THE FISCAL SESSION OF THE
19 GENERAL ASSEMBLY; AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE
20 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEET EVERY TWO (2)
21 YEARS.
22

23
24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL
25 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND BY THE SENATE, A MAJORITY OF ALL
26 MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:
27

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

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



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

2 (a) The General Assembly shall meet at the seat of government every
3 ~~year~~ two (2) years.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

35
36 SECTION 3. Section 29 of Article 5 of the Arkansas Constitution is

1 amended to read as follows:

2 § 29. Appropriations.

3 No money shall be drawn from the treasury except in pursuance of
4 specific appropriation made by law, the purpose of which shall be distinctly
5 stated in the bill, and the maximum amount which may be drawn shall be
6 specified in dollars and cents; and no appropriations made by the General
7 Assembly after December 31, ~~2008~~ 2016, shall be for a longer period than ~~one~~
8 ~~(1) fiscal year~~ two (2) years.

9

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

12 § 34. Introduction of bills – Time limit.

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

15

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

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

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

26

27 SECTION 6. Section 40 of Article 5 of the Arkansas Constitution is
28 amended to read as follows:

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

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

34

35 SECTION 7. Section 7 of Amendment 35 to the Arkansas Constitution,
36 concerning the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, is amended to read as

1 follows:

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

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

11

12 SECTION 8. Section 42(b) of Article 5 of the Arkansas Constitution,
13 concerning the review and approval of administrative rules by a legislative
14 committee, is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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22 SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment is effective on January 1,
23 2017.

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

28 (1) The title of this Joint Resolution shall be the ballot
29 title; and

30 (2) The popular name shall be "An Amendment to the Arkansas
31 Constitution to Abolish the Fiscal Session of the General Assembly and to
32 Provide that the General Assembly Meet Every Two Years".

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