

**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

SJR 9

4  
5 By: Senators K. Ingram, J. Hendren, B. Pierce, Hester, E. Cheatham, D. Johnson  
6 By: Representatives D. Ferguson, E. Armstrong, Bennett, K. Hendren

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION**

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

**Subtitle**

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17  
18 A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REDUCE THE  
19 NUMBER OF DAYS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS IN  
20 SESSION; AND REPEALING THE FISCAL SESSION  
21 OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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23  
24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE  
25 OF ARKANSAS AND BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS  
26 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~~  
11 ~~at 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           ~~(e)(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.

18

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 Reduce the Number of Days the General Assembly is in Session  
32 by Repealing the Fiscal Session of the General Assembly and Providing that an  
33 Appropriation by the General Assembly not be for a Longer Period than Two (2)  
34 Years".

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