

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

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H2/17/17*

2 91st General Assembly

3 Regular Session, 2017

HJR 1020

4

5 By: Representative Davis

6

7

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION**

8

*AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO REPEAL*

9

*THE FISCAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND TO*

10

*PROVIDE FOR ANNUAL REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL*

11

*ASSEMBLY THAT SHALL NOT EXCEED SIXTY (60) DAYS IN*

12

*LENGTH.*

13

14

15

**Subtitle**

16

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION

17

TO REPEAL THE FISCAL SESSION OF THE

18

GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND TO PROVIDE FOR

19

ANNUAL REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL

20

ASSEMBLY.

21

22

23

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL

24

ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

25

26

That the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of

27

the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state

28

for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives

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and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election

30

adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of

31

the State of Arkansas, to wit:

32

33

*SECTION 1. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 5, is amended to read*

34

*as follows:*

35

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

36

*(a) The General Assembly shall meet at the seat of government every*



1 year.

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

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

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

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

17

18 SECTION 2. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 17, is amended to read  
19 as follows:

20 § 17. Duration of sessions.

21 (a) A regular ~~biennial~~ session shall not exceed ~~sixty (60)~~ forty-five  
22 (45) calendar days in duration, unless extended by a vote of two-thirds (2/3)  
23 of the members elected to each house of the General Assembly. The regular  
24 ~~biennial~~ session shall not exceed ~~seventy-five (75)~~ fifty-five (55) calendar  
25 days in duration, unless extended by a vote of three-fourths ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) of the  
26 members elected to each house of the General Assembly. A regular session of  
27 the General Assembly shall not exceed sixty (60) days.

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

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

34

35 SECTION 3. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 18, is amended to read  
36 as follows:

1           *§ 18. Presiding officers.*

2           *Each house, at the beginning of every regular session of the General*  
3 *Assembly occurring in an odd-numbered year, and whenever a vacancy may occur,*  
4 *shall elect from its members a presiding officer, to be styled, respectively,*  
5 *the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;*  
6 *and whenever, at the close of any session, it may appear that the term of the*  
7 *member elected President of the Senate will expire before the next regular*  
8 *session, the Senate shall elect another President from those members whose*  
9 *terms of office continue over, who shall qualify and remain President of the*  
10 *Senate until his successor may be elected and qualified; and who, in the case*  
11 *of a vacancy in the office of Governor, shall perform the duties and exercise*  
12 *the powers of Governor as elsewhere herein provided.*

13

14           *SECTION 4. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 34, is amended to read*  
15 *as follows:*

16           *§ 34. Introduction of bills – Time limit.*

17           *No new bill shall be introduced into either house during the last ~~three~~*  
18 *five (5) days of a regular ~~or fiscal~~ session.*

19

20           *SECTION 5. Arkansas Constitution Article 5, § 42(b), is amended to*  
21 *read as follows:*

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

25

26           *SECTION 6. BALLOT TITLE AND POPULAR NAME. When this proposed*  
27 *amendment is submitted to the electors of this state on the general election*  
28 *ballot:*

29           *(1) The title of this joint resolution shall be the ballot*  
30 *title; and*

31           *(2) The popular name shall be "A Constitutional Amendment to*  
32 *Repeal the Fiscal Session of the General Assembly and Provide for Annual*  
33 *Regular Sessions of the General Assembly that Shall Not Exceed Sixty (60)*  
34 *Days in Length".*

35

36

*/s/Davis*