

1 State of Arkansas  
2 92nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2019  
4  
5 By: Senator T. Garner  
6

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 276

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING THE DATES OF  
9 THE GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION AND PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY  
10 ELECTION; TO AMEND THE TIME PERIOD FOR FILING AS A  
11 CANDIDATE FOR A PRIMARY ELECTION; AND FOR OTHER  
12 PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

16 TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING THE  
17 DATES OF THE GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION AND  
18 PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION; AND TO  
19 AMEND THE TIME PERIOD FOR FILING AS A  
20 CANDIDATE FOR A PRIMARY ELECTION.

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-7-203(a), (b), and (c), concerning the  
26 dates of the general primary election and preferential primary election, are  
27 amended to read as follows:

28 (a) The general primary election shall be held on the ~~third Tuesday in~~  
29 ~~June~~ first Tuesday after the first Monday in March preceding the general  
30 election.

31 (b) The preferential primary election shall be held on the Tuesday  
32 ~~four (4)~~ three (3) weeks before the general primary election.

33 (c)(1) The party filing period shall be a one-week period ~~ending at~~  
34 ~~12:00 noon on the first day in March and beginning at 12:00 noon one (1) week~~  
35 ~~prior to the first day in March~~ beginning at 12:00 noon on the first Monday  
36 in November preceding the general primary election and ending at 12:00 noon



1 on the seventh day thereafter.

2 (2) Party pledges, if any, and affidavits of eligibility shall  
3 be filed, any filing fees of a political party, if any, shall be paid, and  
4 party certificates shall be issued by the party during regular office hours  
5 during the party filing period.

6 (3) A party certificate and the political practices pledge shall  
7 be filed with the county clerk or the Secretary of State, as the case may be,  
8 during regular office hours during the party filing period.

9 (4) The name of a candidate who fails to file a party  
10 certificate and political practices pledge by the filing deadline with the  
11 Secretary of State or county clerk, as the case may be, shall not appear on  
12 the ballot.

13 (5) Party pledges, if any, shall be filed, filing fees, if any,  
14 shall be paid, and party certificates and political practice pledges shall be  
15 filed for special primary elections on or before the deadline established by  
16 proclamation of the Governor or other entity authorized to call a special  
17 primary election.

18

19 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-7-304(a) and (b), concerning names to be  
20 included on ballots, is amended to read as follows:

21 (a)(1) Not less than ~~seventy-five (75)~~ ninety-two (92) days before  
22 each preferential primary election, the Secretary of State shall certify to  
23 all county boards of election commissioners full lists of the names of all  
24 candidates who have filed party certificates with him or her to be placed on  
25 the ballots in their respective counties at the preferential primary  
26 election.

27 (2) A name of a person shall not be certified and shall not be  
28 placed on the ballot if prior to the certification deadline a candidate:

29 (A) Notifies the Secretary of State in writing, signed by  
30 the candidate and acknowledged before an officer authorized to take  
31 acknowledgements, of his or her desire to withdraw as a candidate for the  
32 office or position; or

33 (B) Dies.

34 (b)(1) Not less than ~~seventy-five (75)~~ ninety-two (92) days before  
35 each preferential primary election, the county clerk shall certify to the  
36 county board of election commissioners full lists of the names of all

1 candidates who have filed party certificates with him or her to be placed on  
2 the ballot at the preferential primary election.

3 (2) A name of a person shall not be certified and shall not be  
4 placed on the ballot if prior to the certification deadline a candidate:

5 (A) Notifies the county clerk in writing, signed by the  
6 candidate and acknowledged before an officer authorized to take  
7 acknowledgements, of his or her desire to withdraw as a candidate for the  
8 office or position; or

9 (B) Dies.

10  
11 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-7-305(b), concerning printing of ballots,  
12 is amended to read as follows:

13 (b) The order in which the names of the respective candidates are to  
14 appear on the ballots at all preferential and general primary elections shall  
15 be determined by lot at the public meeting of the county board of election  
16 commissioners held not later than ~~seventy-two (72)~~ eighty-nine (89) days  
17 before the preferential primary election. The county board of election  
18 commissioners shall give at least ten (10) days' written notice of the time  
19 and place of the meeting to the chairs of the county committees if the chairs  
20 are not members of the county board of election commissioners, and at least  
21 three (3) days before the meeting, shall publish notice of the time and place  
22 of holding the meeting in some newspaper of general circulation in the  
23 county.  
24

25 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 14-42-206(a)(1), concerning resolutions  
26 requesting that county political party committees conduct party primaries, is  
27 amended to read as follows:

28 (a)(1) The city or town council of any city or town with the mayor-  
29 council form of government, by resolution passed ~~before January 1 of the year~~  
30 ~~of the election~~ no less than sixty (60) days before the party filing period  
31 begins under § 7-7-203, may request the county party committees of recognized  
32 political parties under the laws of the state to conduct party primaries for  
33 municipal offices for the forthcoming year.  
34  
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