

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1619

5 By: Representative G. Hodges
6 By: Senator J. Bryant
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO PERMIT A LOCAL BOARD OF A COMMUNITY COLLEGE
10 DISTRICT TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL ZONES UNDER CERTAIN
11 CIRCUMSTANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
13

Subtitle

15 TO PERMIT A LOCAL BOARD OF A COMMUNITY
16 COLLEGE DISTRICT TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL
17 ZONES UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-61-518, concerning reconstituted
23 community college districts, is amended to add an additional subsection to
24 read as follows:

25 (c)(1) Within sixty (60) days of a successful election to reconstitute
26 an existing community college district under this section, the local board of
27 a community college district as it existed before the reconstitution of the
28 community college district may vote by a majority vote to establish
29 additional zones within the reconstituted community college district.

30 (2) If a local board of a community college district votes to
31 establish additional zones under subdivision (c)(1) of this section, the:

32 (A) Additional zones shall be substantially equal in
33 population to the existing local community college board zones;

34 (B) Existing local community college board shall notify
35 the county board of election commissioners of each county in which a portion
36 of the county is a part of the reconstituted community college district that



1 an election shall be held at the next general election in the portion of the
 2 county in which the additional zones are included; and

3 (C) Candidates for election from the additional zones
 4 shall be elected at the next general election.

5
 6 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-61-529(c) and (d), concerning the
 7 election of members of a local community college board under certain
 8 circumstances, are amended to read as follows:

9 (c)(1) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, if the
 10 local community college board chooses to remain an elected board, ~~beginning~~
 11 ~~with the 1996 general election,~~ the qualified electors of a community college
 12 district having a ten percent (10%) or greater population in any one (1)
 13 racial minority, as reported by the most recent federal decennial census
 14 information, shall elect the members of the local board as follows, utilizing
 15 selection procedures in compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act of
 16 1965, ~~42 U.S.C. § 1971 et seq. (now 52 U.S.C. § 10101 et seq.)~~:

17 (A)(i) At least ninety (90) days before the election, the
 18 local board ~~shall;~~

19 (a) Shall, with approval of the county board
 20 of election commissioners of ~~any~~ each county in which the community college
 21 is located, divide the district into ~~nine (9) zones;~~ or ~~the local board may,~~

22 (b) May, by resolution, utilize existing
 23 quorum court districts.

24 (ii) Zones determined under subdivision
 25 (c)(1)(A)(i)(a) of this section shall have substantially equal population,
 26 with boundaries based on the most recent available federal decennial census
 27 information; and

28 (B) A candidate for election from a zone or a quorum court
 29 district ~~must~~ shall be a ~~qualified;~~

30 (i) Qualified elector of the zone or district; and a
 31 ~~resident~~

32 (ii) Resident of the zone or district.

33 (2)(A) A board member shall serve a six-year term.

34 (B) A term shall commence ~~after;~~

35 (i) After the county court declares the results of
 36 the election by an order entered of record; and ~~on~~

1 (ii) On January 1 next following the date of the
 2 election.

3 (3)(A) After each federal decennial census and at least ninety
 4 (90) days before the general election, the local board ~~shall~~;

5 (i) Shall, with approval of the county board of
 6 election commissioners of any county in which the community college is
 7 located, divide the district into ~~nine (9) zones~~; or ~~the local board may~~,

8 (ii) May, by resolution, utilize quorum court
 9 districts.

10 (B) The zones determined under subdivision (c)(3)(A)(i) of
 11 this section or quorum court districts shall be ~~based~~;

12 (i) Based on the most recent federal decennial
 13 census information; and ~~be substantially~~

14 (ii) Substantially equal in population.

15 (B) At the general election following the rezoning, a new
 16 local board shall be elected in accordance with procedures set forth in this
 17 section.

18 (d) If division into zones for election purposes would not create a
 19 voting zone with twenty percent (20%) or greater population in any one (1)
 20 racial minority, the community college district shall be exempt from
 21 subsection (c) of this section.

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 24 **APPROVED: 4/10/23**