

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

1619

By: Representative Wilkins

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO REQUIRE ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THE STATE TO ELECT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS FROM ZONES WITHIN THE DISTRICTS; TO REQUIRE THE REAPPORTIONMENT OF ZONES WITHIN THE DISTRICT AFTER EACH FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Beginning with the school board elections in the calendar year 1990, members of the board of directors of all school districts in Arkansas shall be elected by zones within the the district. There shall be as many zones as there may be members on the board of directors, and the zones shall be of equal population to the extent possible. Directors shall be qualified electors of the zone from which elected and shall have resided in the zone for at least six (6) months prior to their election.

(b) The board of directors of a school district shall provide by resolution that all board members be elected by zone. Each board member shall be voted upon by the qualified electors of the zone from which that person is a candidate. The name of the candidate shall appear upon the ballot only in the zone in which he is a candidate. At least ninety (90) days before the next school board elections, the board of directors of a school district shall establish the zones and they shall be of substantially equal population. There shall be as many zones as there may be members on the board of directors.

(c) Upon passage of the resolution, the terms of persons serving on the board of directors shall be reduced so that all positions on the board of directors shall be subject to election at the next regular school election. The terms of the members of the new board of directors shall be staggered as otherwise provided here. Within thirty (30) days from the date of the

election, the new school board shall meet and the members selected from the various zones shall draw for their terms of office. Thereafter, each member shall be elected at each annual school election for a term of five (5) years, provided that any member of the board shall hold office until his successor has been elected and qualified. A member may succeed himself.

(d) Upon the adoption of the zoning resolution, it shall be published by the school district at least ninety (90) days before the next regular school election. The resolution shall, among other things, include a map of the district showing the new zone boundaries, the approximate population of each zone, and the population of the school district at large.

(e) All procedures for notice of election, placing names on the ballot, and other phases of the election of the district board of directors shall be in conformity with existing laws except as otherwise specified herein.

SECTION 2. (a) The board of directors of each school district, with the assistance of the county board of election commissioners of each county in which the district is located, shall divide the territory of each school district into a number of zones having substantially equal population, according to the most recent federal census of population, equal to the number of members of the board. The board shall complete its apportionment of the respective zones from which members of the board shall be elected and shall file it with the county clerk of each county in which the district is located. The zones established by the board, unless changed or modified by order of a court of competent jurisdiction, shall be the zones from which each of the members of the board of directors of the school district are to be elected.

(b) Following each federal decennial census of population, and following any special census of population within a county or counties in which the school district is located, if there has been a substantial change in the population of the zones from the preceding federal census, the board shall reapportion the zones in each district in the manner and by procedure as provided in this act.

SECTION 3. All provisions of this act of general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

