

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

1694

By: Representatives Flanagan and Mahony

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO PERMIT A LOCAL OPTION TO ELECT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS FROM SINGLE MEMBER ZONES; TO ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE FOR CREATION OF A NEW SCHOOL BOARD FOLLOWING THE ELECTION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. (a) Qualified electors of a school district may, by petition, have placed on the ballot of any annual school election the issue to determine whether to elect school district board of directors from single-member zones.

(b) The petitions calling for such an issue to be placed on the ballot shall be signed by not less than three percent (3%) of the qualified electors of the district, based upon the total number of registered voters in the district.

(c) The petitions may be circulated between ninety (90) days and forty-five (45) days prior to the election date.

(d) The petitions shall be filed with the county election commission of the county in which the largest portion of the school district lies.

SECTION 2. (a) Within ten (10) days of the receipt and verification of the sufficiency of the petitions, the county election commission shall notify the board of directors of the affected school district that the issue shall be placed on the ballot of the next school election.

(b) The county election commission shall specify the wording of the ballot to be used to determine whether to elect school district board of directors from single-member zones.

SECTION 3. If a majority of the qualified electors of the school

district shall vote for the election of school district board of directors from single-member districts, the county election commission of the county in which the largest portion of the school district lies shall establish within the school district boundaries for the election of directors of the school board which shall have substantially equal population based on the most recent available census information and from which racial minorities may be represented on the board in proportions reflected in the district population as a whole.

SECTION 4. (a) School district board of directors shall be selected from the single-member zones at the next annual school election which follows the election in which the issue for the election of school district board of directors from single-member zones passed.

(b) The terms of all school district board of directors of the affected district shall expire at the next annual school election which follows the election in which the issue for the election of school district board of directors from single-member zones passed.

SECTION 5. Following the election, the new school district board of directors at their initial meeting shall, by lot, establish their initial terms so that an equal number of positions are filled each year and not more than three (3) members' terms expire each year. The regular term of office for school district board of directors elected after the initial election following the decision to elect from single-member zones shall be the same as the term of school district board of directors of the district prior to the change in the election of school district board of directors.

SECTION 6. All provisions of this act of a 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 7. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.