

1 State of Arkansas

Call Item 5

2 80th General Assembly

# A Bill

3 First Extraordinary Session, 1995

HOUSE BILL

1011

4 By: Representative Bisbee

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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 7-5-101 RELATING TO THE  
9 AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS TO  
10 DESIGNATE POLLING PLACES IN ELECTION PRECINCTS; AND FOR  
11 OTHER PURPOSES."

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## Subtitle

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"TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 7-5-101 RELATING  
15 TO THE DESIGNATION OF POLLING PLACES IN  
16 ELECTION PRECINCTS."

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

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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 7-5-101 is amended to read as follows:

21 "7-5-101. Precinct boundaries and voting places - Establishment and  
22 alteration.

23 (a) The county board of election commissioners are empowered to alter  
24 the boundaries of existing election precincts and to establish new ones when,  
25 in their judgment, it may be necessary. The county board of election  
26 commissioners shall fix a voting place in each election precinct where the  
27 election shall be held. The commissioners may combine precincts at a single  
28 polling site when, in their judgment, it may be necessary. In changing the  
29 boundaries of existing precincts, or in creating new ones, the commissioners  
30 shall arrange them so that all qualified voters residing therein may vote on  
31 the same day. The commissioners shall not have the power to change the  
32 boundaries of existing precincts, to create any new precinct, or to change  
33 the voting place in any precinct, within thirty (30) days of any election,  
34 but all elections shall be held at the places, and within the boundaries, as  
35 they existed thirty (30) days before the date of the election.

1 (b) All voting places shall be fixed at well-known points in the  
 2 several precincts and easily accessible to all electors entitled to vote  
 3 therein.

4 (c)(1) The action of the commissioners in changing the voting place in  
 5 any precinct, in altering the boundaries of any precinct, or in establishing  
 6 any new one, shall be entered in the record to be kept by them. A copy of the  
 7 order, which shall set out intelligently and accurately the boundaries of  
 8 precincts as so altered or established, shall be filed with the clerk of the  
 9 county court who shall record the order at full length on the record book on  
 10 which the minutes of the proceedings of the county court are recorded.

11 (2) Within thirty (30) days after altering the boundaries of an  
 12 election precinct or establishing a new one, the county board of election  
 13 commissioners shall submit four (4) copies of the changes to the Secretary of  
 14 State. The changes shall be submitted in the form of a map and shall include  
 15 a written description. A short statement of why the changes were made may be  
 16 included. Upon receipt of the changes, the Secretary of State shall  
 17 immediately forward a copy to the office of the Attorney General, State Data  
 18 Center, and the Cartography Section of the State Highway Department.

19 (d) Notice of any changes made in polling sites shall also be given to  
 20 the electors by posting information about any such changes prominently at all  
 21 previous polling sites which were used in the last election.

22  
 23 (e)(1) No later than five (5) calendar days before each election, the  
 24 county board of election commissioners of each county in this state shall  
 25 give notice of election precinct locations by means reasonably calculated to  
 26 reach the registered voters in the county.

27 (2) This subsection does not apply to run-off elections."  
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29 SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent  
 30 nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas  
 31 Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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 33 SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to  
 34 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
 35 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without

1 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
2 act are declared to be severable.

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

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7 SECTION 5. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the  
8 General Assembly that the present law relating to the designation of polling  
9 places in voting precincts in the state is unduly restrictive and that in the  
10 best interests of efficiency and convenience of the voting public, it is  
11 necessary that authority of the county board of election commissioners to fix  
12 polling places be clarified immediately and that this act is designed to do  
13 so. Therefore an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this act being  
14 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall  
15 be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

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