

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003

A Bill

SENATE BILL 403

4
5 By: Senator Broadway

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT REGARDING THE STATE ELECTION REQUIREMENTS
10 FOR EARLY VOTING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

13 AN ACT REGARDING THE STATE ELECTION
14 REQUIREMENTS FOR EARLY VOTING.

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

19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-5-418 (a) and (b) are amended to read as
20 follows:

21 (a)(1) Early voting shall be available to any qualified elector who
22 applies to the county ~~clerk during regular office hours~~ clerk's designated
23 early voting location, beginning fifteen (15) days before ~~an~~ a preferential
24 primary, general primary, general, or general run-off election and ending on
25 the ~~day before election day at the time the county clerk's office regularly~~
26 ~~closes~~ Saturday before the election, between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
27 Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Saturday before the
28 election.

29 (2) However, on all other elections, early voting shall be available
30 to any qualified elector who applies to the county clerk during regular
31 office hours, beginning fifteen (15) days before an election and ending on
32 the day before the election day at the time the county clerk's office
33 regularly closes.

34 (b)(1)(A) ~~In any county containing one hundred fifty thousand~~
35 ~~(150,000) registered voters or more, the~~ The county board of election
36 commissioners may decide to hold early voting at additional polling sites



1 outside the offices of the county clerk and to include the additional voting
 2 locations for a maximum of fifteen (15) days ~~but fewer if it so chooses by~~
 3 ~~majority vote~~ on any of the days and times provided for in § 7-5-418 (a), if
 4 they so choose.

5 (B) The county board shall determine by unanimous vote the
 6 location of additional polling sites for early voting.

7 (C) The county clerk shall publish the location of
 8 additional early voting polling sites in a newspaper of general circulation
 9 at least five (5) days before early voting begins.

10 (D) The cost of additional polling sites for early voting
 11 in political party primary elections and nonpartisan judicial general
 12 elections shall be borne by the State of Arkansas to the extent sufficient
 13 funds are available for that purpose as determined by the State Board of
 14 Election Commissioners.

15 (2) The county board shall select the number of election
 16 officials necessary to adequately staff the additional early voting polling
 17 site or sites as in any other election.

18 (3)(A) The county board shall notify the county clerk of its
 19 decision to hold early voting at additional polling sites outside the office
 20 of the county clerk within ten (10) days of the decision.

21 (B) If the county board decides to hold early voting at
 22 additional polling sites outside the office of county clerk, the county clerk
 23 may choose not to hold early voting within the office of the county clerk.
 24 The county clerk shall notify the county board within ten (10) days of the
 25 receipt of notice from the county board regarding early voting at additional
 26 polling sites.

27 (4) The early voting election official shall record the date on
 28 all pages of the early voting roster or early voting request form and keep a
 29 daily record of the number of early ballots cast.

30 ~~(5)(A) The county board may vote to extend the normal hours for~~
 31 ~~voting during early voting.~~

32 ~~(B)~~ The county clerk shall publish the additional hours
 33 for early voting with the location of additional early voting polling sites
 34 in a newspaper of general circulation at least five (5) days before early
 35 voting begins.

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