

State of Arkansas
85th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2005

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1140

By: Representative Verkamp

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE § 14-43-312 TO
CLARIFY THE PROCEDURE FOR STAGGERING THE FOUR-
YEAR TERMS FOR ALDERMEN IN CITIES OF THE FIRST
CLASS WITH FEWER THAN FIFTY THOUSAND (50,000)
INHABITANTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CLARIFY THE PROCEDURES FOR STAGGERING
FOUR-YEAR TERMS FOR ALDERMEN IN FIRST
CLASS CITIES WITH A POPULATION UNDER
FIFTY THOUSAND (50,000).

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 14-43-312 is amended to read as follows:

14-43-312. Aldermen in mayor-council cities of fewer than 50,000.

(a)(1) On the Tuesday following the first Monday in November 1966, and every two (2) years thereafter, the qualified voters of all cities of the first class having the mayor-council form of government with fewer than fifty thousand (50,000) inhabitants shall elect two (2) aldermen from each ward for a term of two (2) years, except that any city of the first class may, by ordinance, refer the question to voters to elect two (2) aldermen from each ward to four-year terms as more particularly set out in subdivision (a)(2)(A) of this section.

(2)(A) On or before February 1 of the election year when the procedure will go into effect, any city of the first class, by ordinance



1 referred to and approved by the voters at the previous general election or at
2 a special election called for that purpose, may elect two (2) aldermen from
3 each ward to four-year terms, except for the initial terms as provided in
4 subdivision (a)(2)(B) of this section.

5 (B)(i) If this procedure is adopted by ordinance referred
6 to and approved by the voters of the city, the alderman representing position
7 number one from each ward will be elected to a four-year term at the next
8 general election.

9 (ii) The alderman representing position number two
10 from each ward will be elected to an initial two-year term at the next
11 election, and thereafter will be elected to four-year terms, resulting in
12 staggered terms with one (1) alderman being elected to a four-year term from
13 each ward every two (2) years.

14 (b)(1) The county board of election commissioners shall designate the
15 aldermen as alderman number one and alderman number two.

16 (2)(A) A candidate for the office of alderman shall designate
17 the number of the alderman's office which the candidate is seeking at the
18 time he or she files as a candidate for the office.

19 (B) When this designation has been made, the candidate
20 shall not be permitted thereafter to change the designation.

21 (c)(1)(A) The city council may refer an ordinance to voters on the
22 question of returning a city to electing aldermen to two-year terms.

23 (B) The ordinance must be passed by a two-thirds (2/3)
24 vote of the city council before it is referred to and approved by voters at a
25 special election called for that purpose.

26 (2) If the voters approve returning the city to electing
27 aldermen to two-year terms, all aldermen shall be elected to two-year terms
28 at the next general election and thereafter, except that those aldermen
29 serving a four-year term shall complete the term.

30 (3) The city council may not refer another question to voters on
31 electing aldermen to four-year terms or on returning the city to electing
32 aldermen to two-year terms unless at least four (4) years have passed since
33 the last election on changing the aldermanic terms.