

State of Arkansas
85th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2005

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1402

By: Representative Mathis

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MODIFY THE TERM OF A MAYOR IN MAYOR-COUNCIL CITIES OF FIFTY THOUSAND (50,000) OR MORE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT TO MODIFY THE TERM OF A MAYOR IN MAYOR-COUNCIL CITIES OF FIFTY THOUSAND (50,000) OR MORE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 14-43-303 is amended to read as follows:

14-43-303. Officials in mayor-council cities of 50,000 or more.

(a)(1)(A) In the general election in the year 1960, and every four (4) years thereafter, cities of the first class that have a population of fifty thousand (50,000) persons or more, according to the latest decennial federal census or special federal census, and that also have the mayor-council form of government shall elect the following officials:

(i) One (1) mayor;

(ii) One (1) city clerk; and

(iii) One (1) alderman from each ward of the city.

(B) All of these officials, except the mayor, shall hold office for a term of four (4) years and until their successors are elected and qualified.

(C)(i) The mayor shall hold office for a term of two (2) years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified.

(ii) Based on a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the city



1 council, the term of the mayor may be changed to four (4) years.

2 (2)(A) At the general election in the year 1960, the city shall
3 also elect:

4 (i) One (1) city attorney;

5 (ii) One (1) city treasurer; and

6 (iii) One (1) alderman from each ward of the city.

7 (B) All of these officials shall hold office for a term of
8 two (2) years and until their successors are elected and qualified.

9 (3)(A) At the general election in the year 1962 and every four
10 (4) years thereafter, the city shall elect:

11 (i) One (1) city attorney;

12 (ii) One (1) city treasurer; and

13 (iii) One (1) alderman from each ward of the city.

14 (B) All of these officials shall hold office for a term of
15 four (4) years and until their successors are elected and qualified.

16 (b) In all primaries or general elections, the candidates for the
17 office of alderman shall reside in their respective wards. However, all
18 qualified electors residing in these cities and entitled to vote in the
19 elections shall have the right to vote at their several voting precincts for
20 each and every candidate so to be nominated or elected.

21 (c) All odd-year elections for municipal officials in the cities of
22 the first class that have a population of fifty thousand (50,000) or more
23 persons, according to the latest federal census, and that also have the
24 mayor-council form of government are abolished.

25 (d) If a city first attains a population of fifty thousand (50,000) as
26 shown in a decennial federal census or special federal census completed after
27 January 1, 1997, and the mayor or other elected official of such city last
28 elected before the census was elected to a four-year term and such term will
29 expire two (2) years before the quadrennial general election year at which
30 city officials are elected as provided in subsection (a) of this section, the
31 terms of such officials shall be extended for a period of two (2) years in
32 order that the terms will coincide with the next quadrennial general election
33 year. At that quadrennial general election and at each quadrennial general
34 election thereafter, the mayor and such other municipal officials shall be
35 elected ~~to terms of four (4) years~~ as provided in this section. The
36 provisions of this subsection shall not affect in any way the provisions of

1 this section that provide for staggering the terms of office of aldermen so
2 that one (1) alderman will be elected from each ward every two (2) years.

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