

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1770

4
5 By: Representatives Hardwick, D. Creekmore, Roebuck, Wood
6 By: Senators J. Bookout, Wilkinson
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

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9
10 AN ACT TO PROVIDE INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING FOR
11 ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL STATIONED
12 OVERSEAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
13

Subtitle

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15 AN ACT TO PROVIDE INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING
16 FOR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL
17 STATIONED OVERSEAS.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-5-406, concerning absentee voting by
23 members of the military and citizens residing outside the United States, is
24 amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

25 (c)(1) For the qualified electors in the categories named in
26 subsection (a) of this section who are active duty military personnel
27 stationed overseas, the county board of election commissioners shall prepare
28 a special absentee ballot for each preferential primary and general election
29 to be sent to the voter in addition to the regular absentee ballot.

30 (2)(A) The special absentee ballot shall contain a list of all
31 offices being contested and the candidates qualifying for the election in
32 each office.

33 (B) The special absentee ballot shall permit the elector
34 to vote in the general primary election or in a general runoff election by
35 indicating his or her order of preference for each candidate for each office.

36 (C)(i) To indicate his or her order of preference for each



1 candidate for each office, the voter shall put the number one (1) next to the
2 name of the candidate who is the voter's first choice, the number two (2) for
3 the voter's second choice, and so forth, so that, in consecutive numerical
4 order, a number indicating the voter's preference is written by the voter
5 next to the candidate's name on the ballot.

6 (ii) However, the voter shall not be required to
7 indicate his or her preference for more than one (1) candidate on the ballot
8 if he or she chooses.

9 (3) The special absentee ballot shall be marked as a "special
10 runoff ballot".

11 (4) Instructions shall be sent with the special absentee ballot
12 to the qualified voter explaining the instant runoff voting process.

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14 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-5-416, concerning counting of absentee
15 ballots, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

16 (f)(1) Absentee ballots marked as "special runoff ballots" received
17 from a qualified voter who meets one of the categories in § 7-5-406(a) shall
18 be opened for general primary elections and general runoff elections
19 according to the procedures described in subsection (b) of this section.

20 (2) However, in counting the special runoff ballot, one (1) of
21 the election officials shall open the envelope containing the special runoff
22 ballot and read the numbers indicated next to the names of the two (2)
23 candidates in the general primary election or in the general runoff election.

24 (3) The candidate with the highest ranking shall receive the
25 vote.

26 (4) A special runoff ballot received with the preferential
27 primary absentee ballot shall be counted in the general primary election, and
28 a special runoff ballot received with the general election absentee ballot
29 shall be counted in the general runoff election.

30 (5) The Secretary of State shall prepare instructions for
31 opening, counting, and canvassing special runoff ballots and provide the
32 instructions to each county board of election commissioners.