

1 State of Arkansas  
2 89th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2013  
4

*As Engrossed: S3/13/13*

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 261

5 By: Senators J. Key, Irvin  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE A PETITION PROCESS FOR CITIZENS TO  
9 REQUEST A MEETING OF A LOCAL GOVERNING BODY; AND FOR  
10 OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

11  
12  
13  
14 TO CREATE A PETITION PROCESS FOR CITIZENS  
15 TO REQUEST A MEETING OF A LOCAL GOVERNING  
16 BODY.

17  
18  
19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
20

21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 14-14-904(a), concerning a quorum court  
22 assembly, is amended to read as follows:

23 (a) Time and Place of Quorum Court Assembly.

24 (1)(A)(i) The justices of the peace elected in each county shall  
25 assemble and organize as a county quorum court body on a date chosen by the  
26 county judge and held within five (5) days, excepting holidays, after the  
27 beginning of the justices' term in office.

28 (ii) If the first meeting is not held on the quorum  
29 court's established regular meeting day, the quorum court may declare the  
30 first meeting to be in lieu of the established January meeting.

31 (B)(i) Thereafter, the justices shall assemble each  
32 calendar month in their respective counties to perform the duties of a quorum  
33 court, except that more frequent meetings may be required by ordinance.

34 (ii)(a) The time and place of the initial assembly  
35 of justices shall be designated by written notice of the county judge.

36 (b) Thereafter, the justices shall meet as a



1 quorum court at a regular time and place established by ordinance.

2 (C)(i) The justices also shall meet as a quorum court when  
3 petitioned to do so by a verified petition in writing signed by fifty (50)  
4 qualified electors of the county.

5 (ii) The verified petition shall state the purpose  
6 for which the justices shall meet as a quorum court.

7 (2) By declaration of emergency or determination that an  
8 emergency exists and the safety of the general public is at risk, the county  
9 judge may change the date, place, or time of the regular meeting of the  
10 quorum court upon twenty-four-hour notice.

11  
12 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 14-43-502 is amended to read as follows:

13 14-43-502. Powers of council generally.

14 (a) The city council shall possess all the legislative powers granted  
15 by this subtitle and other corporate powers of the city not prohibited in it  
16 or by some ordinance of the city council made in pursuance of the provisions  
17 of this subtitle and conferred on some officer of the city.

18 (b)(1) The council shall have the management and control of finances,  
19 and of all the real and personal property belonging to the corporation.

20 (2)(A) The council shall provide the times and places of holding  
21 its meetings, which shall at all times be open to the public.

22 (B) The mayor or any three (3) aldermen of any city or  
23 town, regardless of size or classification, may call special meetings in the  
24 manner as may be provided by ordinance.

25 (C)(i) The council also shall meet when petitioned to do  
26 so by a verified petition in writing signed by fifty (50) qualified electors  
27 of the municipality.

28 (ii) The verified petition shall state the purpose  
29 for which the council shall meet.

30 (3) The council shall appoint, or provide by ordinance, that the  
31 qualified voters of the city, of the wards, or districts as the case may  
32 require, shall elect all such city officers as shall be necessary for the  
33 good government of the city and for the due exercise of its corporate powers,  
34 and which shall have been provided by ordinance, as to whose appointment or  
35 election provision is not made in this subtitle and not provided by any  
36 general law of the state in reference to cities of the first class.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36

*/s/J. Key*