

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/10/15 H3/18/15*
90th General Assembly **A Bill**
Regular Session, 2015

HOUSE BILL 1413

By: Representatives Baine, Neal, *Lemons*
By: *Senator Hester*

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE ORGANIZATION
AND OPERATION OF A QUORUM COURT; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE
ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF A QUORUM
COURT.

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

*SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 14-14-904(a), concerning the time and place
of quorum court assembly, is amended to read as follows:*

(a) Time and Place of Quorum Court Assembly.

*(1)(A)(i) The justices of the peace elected in each county shall
assemble and organize as a county quorum court body on the first regular
meeting date after the beginning of the justices' term in office, or*

*~~(ii) Alternatively,~~ the county judge may schedule
the biennial meeting date of the quorum court on a date in January other than
the first regular meeting date of the quorum court after the beginning of the
justices' term.*

*(ii) At the first regular meeting, the quorum court
shall establish the date, time, and location of meetings of the quorum court.*

*(iii) The organizational ordinance adopted at the
first regular meeting of the quorum court shall be effective upon adoption.*

(B) Thereafter, the justices shall assemble each calendar



1 month at a regular time and place as established by ordinance and in their
2 respective counties to perform the duties of a quorum court, except that more
3 frequent meetings may be required by ordinance.

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

8
9 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 14-14-904(d), concerning the presiding
10 officer of the quorum court, is amended to read as follows:

11 (d) Presiding Officer.

12 (1)(A) The county judge shall preside over the quorum court
13 without a vote but with the power of veto.

14 (B) In the absence of the county judge, a quorum of the
15 justices by majority vote shall elect one (1) of their number to preside but
16 without the power to veto.

17 (2)(A)(i) The presiding officer shall appoint all regular and
18 special committees of a quorum court, subject to any procedural rules that
19 may be adopted by ordinance and to approval by majority vote of the quorum
20 court.

21 (ii)(a) The quorum court may create additional
22 regular and special committees of the quorum court in the organizational
23 ordinance, with the appointment of committee members made by the presiding
24 officer under subdivision (d)(2)(A)(i) of this section.

25 (b) If the presiding officer has not made the
26 appointments of a regular or special committee created by the quorum court
27 under subdivision (d)(2)(A)(ii)(a) of this section within sixty (60) days of
28 the first regular meeting of the quorum court, the quorum court may make the
29 appointments by majority vote.

30 (B) A regular committee or special committee of the quorum
31 court shall not consist of more than a quorum of the whole body without the
32 consent of the county judge.

33
34 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 14-14-904(e), concerning procedural rules
35 and attendance at meetings, is amended to read as follows:

36 (e) Procedural Rules and Attendance at Meetings.

(1) Except as otherwise provided by law, the quorum court of each county shall determine at the first regular meeting its rules of procedure, whether by Robert's Rules of Order or otherwise, and may compel the attendance of absent members in such manner and under such penalties as may be prescribed by ordinance.

(2) The determination of rules of procedure under subdivision (e)(1) of this section shall be made at the first regular meeting of the quorum court in its organizational ordinance.

/s/Baine