

1 State of Arkansas  
2 91st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2017  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 122

5 By: Senator G. Stubblefield  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE DATES OF THE  
9 GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION AND THE PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY  
10 ELECTION; TO AMEND THE TIME PERIOD FOR FILING AS A  
11 CANDIDATE FOR A PRIMARY ELECTION; AND FOR OTHER  
12 PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

15 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE DATES OF  
16 THE GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION AND THE  
17 PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION; AND TO  
18 AMEND THE TIME PERIOD FOR FILING AS A  
19 CANDIDATE FOR A PRIMARY ELECTION.  
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-7-203(a)-(c), concerning dates for  
26 primary elections generally, is amended to read as follows:

27 (a) The general primary election shall be held on the ~~second Tuesday~~  
28 ~~in June~~ first Tuesday in April preceding the general election.

29 (b) The preferential primary election shall be held on the Tuesday  
30 ~~three (3)~~ four (4) weeks before the general primary election.

31 (c)(1) The party filing period shall be a one-week period ~~ending at~~  
32 ~~12:00 noon on the first day in March and beginning at 12:00 noon one (1) week~~  
33 ~~prior to the first day in March~~ beginning at 12:00 noon on the first Monday  
34 in November preceding the general primary election and ending at 12:00 noon  
35 on the seventh day thereafter.

36 (2) Party pledges, if any, and affidavits of eligibility shall



1 be filed, any filing fees of a political party, if any, shall be paid, and  
2 party certificates shall be issued by the party during regular office hours  
3 during the party filing period.

4 (3) A party certificate and the political practices pledge shall  
5 be filed with the county clerk or the Secretary of State, as the case may be,  
6 during regular office hours during the party filing period.

7 (4) The name of a candidate who fails to file a party  
8 certificate and political practices pledge by the filing deadline with the  
9 Secretary of State or county clerk, as the case may be, shall not appear on  
10 the ballot.

11 (5) Party pledges, if any, shall be filed, filing fees, if any,  
12 shall be paid, and party certificates and political practice pledges shall be  
13 filed for special primary elections on or before the deadline established by  
14 proclamation of the Governor or other entity authorized to call a special  
15 primary election.

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17 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-7-304(a) and (b), concerning names to be  
18 included on ballots, is amended to read as follows:

19 (a)(1) Not less than ~~seventy-five (75)~~ ninety-two (92) days before  
20 each preferential primary election, the Secretary of State shall certify to  
21 all county boards of election commissioners full lists of the names of all  
22 candidates who have filed party certificates with him or her to be placed on  
23 the ballots in their respective counties at the preferential primary  
24 election.

25 (2) A name of a person shall not be certified and shall not be  
26 placed on the ballot if prior to the certification deadline a candidate:

27 (A) Notifies the Secretary of State in writing, signed by  
28 the candidate and acknowledged before an officer authorized to take  
29 acknowledgements, of his or her desire to withdraw as a candidate for the  
30 office or position; or

31 (B) Dies.

32 (b)(1) Not less than ~~seventy-five (75)~~ ninety-two (92) days before  
33 each preferential primary election, the county clerk shall certify to the  
34 county board full lists of the names of all candidates who have filed party  
35 certificates with him or her to be placed on the ballot at the preferential  
36 primary election.

1 (2) A name of a person shall not be certified and shall not be  
 2 placed on the ballot if prior to the certification deadline a candidate:

3 (A) Notifies the county clerk in writing, signed by the  
 4 candidate and acknowledged before an officer authorized to take  
 5 acknowledgements, of his or her desire to withdraw as a candidate for the  
 6 office or position; or

7 (B) Dies.  
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9 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-7-305(b), concerning printing of ballots  
 10 and ballot position, is amended to read as follows:

11 (b) The order in which the names of the respective candidates are to  
 12 appear on the ballots at all preferential and general primary elections shall  
 13 be determined by lot at the public meeting of the county board of election  
 14 commissioners held not later than ~~seventy-two (72)~~ eighty-nine (89) days  
 15 before the preferential primary election. The county board shall give at  
 16 least ten (10) days' written notice of the time and place of the meeting to  
 17 the chairs of the county committees if the chairs are not members of the  
 18 board, and at least three (3) days before the meeting, shall publish notice  
 19 of the time and place of holding the meeting in some newspaper of general  
 20 circulation in the county.  
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22 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 14-42-206(a)(1), concerning municipal  
 23 elections, is amended to read as follows:

24 (a)(1) The city or town council of any city or town with the mayor-  
 25 council form of government, by resolution passed ~~before January 1 of the year~~  
 26 ~~of the election~~ no less than sixty (60) days before the party filing period  
 27 under § 7-7-203, may request the county party committees of recognized  
 28 political parties under the laws of the state to conduct party primaries for  
 29 municipal offices for the forthcoming year.  
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31 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 21-8-705, which expired December 31, 2016,  
 32 pursuant to Acts 2015 (1st Ex. Sess.), No. 4, § 7, is reenacted to read as  
 33 follows:

34 21-8-705. Filing of additional statement of financial interest in year  
 35 in which party filing period is held.

36 If the party filing period under § 7-7-203 ends before January 1 of the

1 year of the general election, a candidate for elective office shall file a  
2 statement of financial interest for the previous calendar year no later than  
3 January 31 of the year of the general election in addition to the statement  
4 of financial interest required under § 21-8-701.

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