

**Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the Arkansas
Constitution.**

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019

HJR 1002

4
5 By: Representative D. Douglas

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

8 AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO ABOLISH
9 THE FISCAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; TO
10 PROVIDE THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEET EVERY TWO (2)
11 YEARS UNLESS CONVENED BY THE GOVERNOR FOR AN
12 EXTRAORDINARY SESSION; AND TO PROVIDE THAT AN
13 APPROPRIATION MADE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOT BE FOR
14 A LONGER PERIOD THAN TWO (2) YEARS.

Subtitle

18 AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION
19 TO ABOLISH THE FISCAL SESSION OF THE
20 GENERAL ASSEMBLY; AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE
21 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEET EVERY TWO (2)
22 YEARS.

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL
26 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE SENATE, A MAJORITY OF ALL
27 MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

29 That the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of
30 the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state
31 for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives
32 and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election
33 adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of
34 the State of Arkansas, to wit:

36 SECTION 1. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 5, is amended to read



1 as follows:

2 § 5. Regular ~~and fiscal~~ sessions.

3 (a) The General Assembly shall meet at the seat of government every
4 ~~year~~ two (2) years.

5 (b) The General Assembly shall meet in regular session on the second
6 Monday in January of each odd-numbered year to consider any bill or
7 resolution. The General Assembly may alter the time at which the regular
8 session begins.

9 ~~(c)(1) Beginning in 2010, the General Assembly shall meet in fiscal~~
10 ~~session on the second Monday in February of each even-numbered year to~~
11 ~~consider only appropriation bills. The General Assembly may alter the time at~~
12 ~~which the fiscal session begins.~~

13 ~~(2) A bill other than an appropriation bill may be considered in~~
14 ~~a fiscal session if two-thirds (2/3) of the members of each house of the~~
15 ~~General Assembly approve consideration of the bill.~~

16 ~~(d) The General Assembly, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members~~
17 ~~elected to each house of the General Assembly, may alter the dates of the~~
18 ~~regular session and fiscal session so that regular sessions occur in even~~
19 ~~numbered years and the fiscal sessions occur in odd-numbered years.~~

20

21 SECTION 2. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 17, is amended to read
22 as follows:

23 § 17. Duration of sessions.

24 (a) A regular biennial session shall not exceed sixty (60) calendar
25 days in duration, unless extended by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the
26 members elected to each house of the General Assembly. ~~The regular biennial~~
27 ~~session shall not exceed seventy five (75) calendar days in duration, unless~~
28 ~~extended by a vote of three-fourths (¾) of the members elected to each house~~
29 ~~of the General Assembly.~~

30 ~~(b) A fiscal session shall not exceed thirty (30) calendar days in~~
31 ~~duration, except that by a vote of three-fourths (¾) of the members elected~~
32 ~~to each house of the General Assembly a fiscal session may be extended one~~
33 ~~(1) time by no more than fifteen (15) calendar days.~~

34 ~~(c)(b)~~ Provided, that this section shall not apply when impeachments
35 are pending.

36

1 SECTION 3. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 29, is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 § 29. Appropriations.

4 No money shall be drawn from the treasury except in pursuance of
5 specific appropriation made by law, the purpose of which shall be distinctly
6 stated in the bill, and the maximum amount which may be drawn shall be
7 specified in dollars and cents; and no appropriations made by the General
8 Assembly after December 31, ~~2008~~ 2020, shall be for a longer period than ~~one~~
9 ~~(1) fiscal year~~ two (2) years.

10
11 SECTION 4. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 34, is amended to read
12 as follows:

13 § 34. Introduction of bills – Time limit.

14 No new bill shall be introduced into either house during the last three
15 days of a regular ~~or fiscal~~ session.

16
17 SECTION 5. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 39, is amended to read
18 as follows:

19 [§ 39.] State expenses – Limitation – Exceptions.

20 § 3. Excepting monies raised or collected for educational purposes,
21 highway purposes, to pay Confederate pensions and the just debts of the
22 State, the General Assembly is hereby prohibited from appropriating or
23 expending more than the sum of Two and One-Half Million Dollars for all
24 purposes, for any ~~fiscal year~~ biennial period; provided the limit herein
25 fixed may be exceeded by the votes of three-fourths of the members elected to
26 each House of the General Assembly.

27
28 SECTION 6. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 40, is amended to read
29 as follows:

30 [§ 40.] General appropriation bill – Enactment.

31 § 4. In making appropriations for any ~~fiscal year~~ biennial period, the
32 General Assembly shall first pass the General Appropriation Bill provided for
33 in Section 30 of Article 5 of the Constitution, and no other appropriation
34 bill may be enacted before that shall have been done.

35
36 SECTION 7. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 42(b), concerning the

1 review and approval of administrative rules by a legislative committee, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 (b) The review and approval by a legislative committee under
4 subsection (a) of this section may occur during the interim or during a
5 regular, or special, ~~or fiscal~~ session of the General Assembly.

6
7 SECTION 8. Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 35, § 7, concerning the
8 Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, is amended to read as follows:

9 § 7. Executive secretary and other personnel – Selection – Salaries
10 and expenditures.

11 The Commission shall elect an Executive Secretary, whose salary shall
12 not exceed that of limitations placed on other constitutional departments;
13 and other executive officers, supervisor, personnel, office assistants,
14 wardens, game refuge keepers, and hatchery employees, whose salaries and
15 expenditures must be submitted to the Legislature and approved by an Act
16 covering specific items in the biennial appropriation as covered by Article
17 XVI Section 4 of the Constitution.

18
19 SECTION 9. Nothing in this amendment shall be construed to alter the
20 Governor's authority to call a special session of the General Assembly.

21
22 SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment is effective on and after
23 January 1, 2021.

24
25 SECTION 11. BALLOT TITLE AND POPULAR NAME. When this proposed
26 amendment is submitted to the electors of this state on the general election
27 ballot:

28 (1) The title of this Joint Resolution shall be the ballot
29 title; and

30 (2) The popular name shall be "An Amendment to the Arkansas
31 Constitution to Abolish the Fiscal Session of the General Assembly and to
32 Provide that the General Assembly Meet Every Two (2) Years Unless Convened by
33 the Governor for an Extraordinary Session".