

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 1029

4
5 By: Representative Sorvillo

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7 **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION**

8 AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO REQUIRE
9 THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEET EACH YEAR IN A REGULAR
10 SESSION; AND TO REPEAL THE FISCAL SESSION OF THE
11 GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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14 **Subtitle**

15 A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REQUIRE
16 THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEET EACH YEAR
17 IN A REGULAR SESSION.

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19
20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE SENATE, A MAJORITY OF ALL
22 MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

23
24 THAT the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of
25 the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state
26 for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives
27 and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election
28 adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of
29 the State of Arkansas, to wit:

30
31 SECTION 1. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 5, is amended to read
32 as follows:

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

34 (a) The General Assembly shall meet at the seat of government every
35 year.

36 (b)(1) The General Assembly shall meet in regular session on the



1 second Monday in January of each ~~odd-numbered~~ year to consider any bill or
2 resolution.

3 (2) The General Assembly may alter the time at which the regular
4 session begins.

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

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

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

16
17 SECTION 2. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 17, is amended to read
18 as follows:

19 § 17. Duration of sessions.

20 (a) A regular ~~biennial~~ session shall not exceed sixty (60) calendar
21 days in duration, unless extended by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the
22 members elected to each house of the General Assembly. The regular biennial
23 session shall not exceed seventy five (75) calendar days in duration, unless
24 extended by a vote of three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the members elected to each house
25 of the General Assembly.

26 ~~(b) A fiscal session shall not exceed thirty (30) calendar days in~~
27 ~~duration, except that by a vote of three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the members elected~~
28 ~~to each house of the General Assembly a fiscal session may be extended one~~
29 ~~(1) time by no more than fifteen (15) calendar days.~~

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

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33 SECTION 3. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 18, is amended to read
34 as follows:

35 § 18. Presiding officers.

36 Each house, at the beginning of every regular session of the General

1 Assembly following a general election, and whenever a vacancy may occur,
2 shall elect from its members a presiding officer, to be styled, respectively,
3 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
4 and whenever, at the close of any session, it may appear that the term of the
5 member elected President of the Senate will expire before the next regular
6 session, the Senate shall elect another President from those members whose
7 terms of office continue over, who shall qualify and remain President of the
8 Senate until his successor may be elected and qualified; and who, in the case
9 of a vacancy in the office of Governor, shall perform the duties and exercise
10 the powers of Governor as elsewhere herein provided.

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

14 § 34. Introduction of bills – Time limit.

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

17
18 SECTION 5. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 42(b), concerning the
19 review and approval of administrative rules by a legislative committee, is
20 amended to read as follows:

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

24
25 SECTION 6. Arkansas Constitution, Article 19, § 22, is amended to read
26 as follows:

27 § 22. Constitutional amendments.

28 Either branch of the General Assembly, at a regular session ~~thereof~~
29 following a general election, may propose amendments to this Constitution;
30 and if the same be agreed to by a majority of all members elected to each
31 house, such proposed amendments shall be entered on the journals with the
32 yeas and nays, and published in at least one newspaper in each county, where
33 a newspaper is published, for six months immediately preceding the next
34 general election for Senators and Representatives, at which time the same
35 shall be submitted to the electors of the State, for approval or rejection;
36 and if a majority of the electors voting at such election adopt such

1 amendments, the same shall become a part of this Constitution. But no more
2 than three amendments shall be proposed or submitted at the same time. They
3 shall be so submitted as to enable the electors to vote on each amendment
4 separately.

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6 SECTION 7. Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 70, § 2, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 § 2. Additional Constitutional amendments authorized.

9 In addition to the three amendments to the Constitution allowed
10 pursuant to Article 19, § 22, either branch of the General Assembly at a
11 regular session ~~thereof~~ following a general election may propose an amendment
12 to the Constitution to change the salaries for the offices of Governor,
13 Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer of
14 State, Commissioner of State Lands, and Auditor of State and for members of
15 the General Assembly. If the same be agreed to by a majority of all members
16 elected to each house, such proposed amendment shall be entered on the
17 journals with the yeas and nays, and published in at least one newspaper in
18 each county, where a newspaper is published, for six months immediately
19 preceding the next general election for Senators and Representatives, at
20 which time the same shall be submitted to the electors of the State for
21 approval or rejection. If a majority of the electors voting at such election
22 adopt the amendment the same shall become a part of this Constitution. Only
23 one amendment to the Constitution may be referred pursuant to this section.

24
25 SECTION 8. Nothing in this amendment shall be construed to alter the
26 Governor's authority to call an extraordinary session of the General Assembly
27 under Arkansas Constitution, Article 6, § 19.

28
29 SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment is effective on and after
30 January 1, 2021.

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32 SECTION 10. BALLOT TITLE AND POPULAR NAME. When this proposed
33 amendment is submitted to the electors of this state on the general election
34 ballot:

35 (1) The title of this Joint Resolution shall be the ballot
36 title; and

1 (2) The popular name shall be "A Constitutional Amendment to
2 Require that the General Assembly Meet Each Year in a Regular Session and to
3 Repeal the Fiscal Session of the General Assembly".
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