

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: S3/1/23

94th General Assembly

# A Bill

Regular Session, 2023

SENATE BILL 273

By: Senators J. Petty, K. Hammer, Dees, M. McKee, Stone

By: Representatives McAlindon, Wing, Achor, Andrews, Barker, Beaty Jr., Beck, Bentley, M. Berry, Breaux, Brooks, K. Brown, M. Brown, Burkes, Joey Carr, C. Cooper, Cozart, Evans, C. Fite, L. Fite, Fortner, Furman, Gazaway, Gonzales, Gramlich, Haak, Hawk, Hollowell, Jean, Ladyman, Long, Lundstrum, Lynch, McClure, McCollum, M. McElroy, McGrew, B. McKenzie, McNair, S. Meeks, Miller, Milligan, K. Moore, Pilkington, Puryear, R. Scott Richardson, Richmond, Rose, Rye, Tosh, Underwood, Vaught, Womack, Wooten

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND ELECTION LAW CONCERNING POLLING SITES; TO AMEND THE LOCATION OF VOTE CENTERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO AMEND ELECTION LAW CONCERNING POLLING SITES; AND TO AMEND THE LOCATION OF VOTE CENTERS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-5-101(e)(2), concerning the establishment and alteration of precinct boundaries, polling sites, and vote centers, is amended to read as follows:

(2)(A)(i) Except for school elections under § 6-14-106, a vote center location for each election shall be the same as that established for the immediately preceding general election unless changed by order of the county board of election commissioners.

(ii) When a runoff is required in a county that only utilizes vote centers, the vote centers for the runoff election shall be the vote centers that are located within a precinct composed of qualified



1 electors who are eligible to vote in that runoff election.

2 (iii) When a runoff election is required in a county  
3 that only utilizes vote centers and where no vote center is located in one or  
4 more precincts composed of qualified electors participating in the runoff  
5 election, the county board of election commissioners shall:

6 (a) Establish one (1) or more vote centers  
7 within the jurisdiction for which the runoff election is being conducted  
8 prior to the publication of the notice of election; or

9 (b) Open a vote center at the county seat if  
10 no polling site is otherwise available on election day under this section.

11 (B)(i) The county board of election commissioners shall  
12 not change a vote center location for ~~any precinct~~ less than ~~thirty (30)~~  
13 sixty (60) days before ~~an~~ a preferential primary election or general  
14 election, except in the event of an emergency.

15 (ii) The county board of election commissioners  
16 shall not change a vote center location less than thirty (30) days before an  
17 election other than for a preferential primary or general election, except in  
18 the event of an emergency.

19 (iii) The county board of election commissioners may  
20 establish a new vote center for an election less than thirty (30) days before  
21 an election if the county board of election commissioners determines the  
22 existing vote centers do not adequately serve the county's qualified  
23 electors.

24 (iv) A vote center established under subdivision  
25 (e)(2)(B)(iii) of this section shall be included in the notice of election.

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27 /s/J. Petty  
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