

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

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2011
4
5 By: Senator R. Thompson

SJR 7

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

8 TO LIMIT THE SIZE OF ARKANSAS GOVERNMENT BY AMENDING
9 THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION BY COMBINING THE OFFICE OF
10 TREASURER OF STATE WITH THE OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF
11 STATE; TO COMBINE THE OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
12 WITH THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE; TO ABOLISH
13 THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF STATE LANDS; AND TO
14 AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO SET THE SALARIES
15 FOR GOVERNOR, ATTORNEY GENERAL, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR,
16 AND AUDITOR OF STATE.

Subtitle

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19 TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO
20 COMBINE SEVERAL OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL
21 OFFICES; TO ABOLISH THE OFFICE OF THE
22 COMMISSIONER OF STATE LANDS; AND TO ALLOW
23 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO SET THE SALARIES
24 FOR CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS.
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28 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
29 STATE OF ARKANSAS AND BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, A MAJORITY OF ALL
30 MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:
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32 THAT the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of
33 the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state
34 for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives
35 and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election
36 adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of



1 the State of Arkansas, to wit:

2
3 SECTION 1. (a) Effective January 1, 2015, the office of Treasurer of
4 State is abolished and removed from the Arkansas Constitution.

5 (b) Constitutional, statutory, and otherwise lawful powers and duties
6 of the Treasurer of State are granted and transferred to the Auditor of
7 State.

8
9 SECTION 2. (a) Effective January 1, 2019, the office of Secretary of
10 State is abolished and removed from the Arkansas Constitution.

11 (b) Constitutional, statutory, and otherwise lawful powers and duties
12 of the Secretary of State are granted and transferred to the Lieutenant
13 Governor.

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15 SECTION 3. (a) Effective January 1, 2019, the office of the
16 Commissioner of State Lands is abolished and removed from the Arkansas
17 Constitution.

18 (b) Constitutional, statutory, and otherwise lawful powers and duties
19 of the Commissioner of State Lands shall be granted and transferred by the
20 General Assembly.

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22 SECTION 4. Sections 1 - 3 of Amendment 70 of the Arkansas Constitution
23 are amended to read as follows:

24 § 1. Executive Department and General Assembly – Salaries –
25 Restrictions on reimbursements.

26 (a) No official of the Executive Department shall be reimbursed by the
27 State of Arkansas for any expenses except those reasonably connected to their
28 official duties and only if such reimbursement is made for documented
29 expenses actually incurred and from the regular budget appropriated for the
30 official's office. Such restrictions on expense reimbursement are of a
31 general application and also are intended specifically to prohibit the
32 appropriation and use of public relations funds. The annual salaries of the
33 Executive Department, ~~which shall be paid in monthly installments, shall be~~
34 ~~as follows: the Governor, the sum of \$60,000; the Lieutenant Governor, the~~
35 ~~sum of \$29,000; the Secretary of State, the sum of \$37,500; the Treasurer of~~
36 ~~State, the sum of \$37,000; the Attorney General, the sum of \$50,000; the~~

1 ~~Commissioner of State Lands, the sum of \$37,500; and the Auditor of State,~~
 2 ~~the sum of \$37,500 shall be set by the General Assembly.~~ Except as provided
 3 herein, such officials of the Executive Department shall not receive any
 4 other income from the State of Arkansas, whether in the form of salaries or
 5 expenses.

6 (b) The members of the General Assembly shall receive as their annual
 7 salary the sum of \$12,500, except the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and
 8 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall each receive the sum
 9 of \$14,000 annually, with such salaries to be payable in equal monthly
 10 installments. Except as provided herein, no member of the General Assembly
 11 shall receive any other income for service in the General Assembly, whether
 12 in the form of salaries or expenses, including, but not limited to, public
 13 relations funds. Provided further, that no member of the General Assembly
 14 shall be entitled to per diem unless authorized by law, or to reimbursement
 15 for expenses or mileage unless authorized by law, documented, and reasonably
 16 related to their official duties.

17
 18 § 2. Additional Constitutional amendments authorized.

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

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 35 § 3. Salary adjustments.

36 The salaries of the ~~Executive Department officials and~~ members of the

1 General Assembly provided for in Section 1 or 2 of this amendment or adjusted
2 pursuant to this section may be increased annually through subsequent
3 appropriations by the General Assembly by an amount not to exceed the average
4 percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers or
5 its successor, as published by the United States Department of Labor, for the
6 two years immediately preceding the year of the salary appropriation.

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8 SECTION 5. The General Assembly shall enact laws to implement the
9 provisions of this amendment.

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