

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1331

5 By: Representatives Barnes, K. Ferguson, Holcomb
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING PROCEDURES OF THE
10 COUNTY QUORUM COURT FOR ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS; TO
11 REQUIRE THE COUNTY TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE UNDER THE
12 ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE PRIOR YEAR
13 UNTIL A NEW ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IS
14 ADOPTED; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER
15 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

18 TO REQUIRE A COUNTY TO CONTINUE TO
19 OPERATE UNDER THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION
20 ORDINANCE FOR THE PRIOR YEAR IF A NEW
21 ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IS NOT
22 ADOPTED; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 14-14-904(b)(1)(A)(ii), concerning the
28 procedure for appropriations by a quorum court, is amended to add an
29 additional subdivision to read as follows:

30 (c) If a quorum court does not pass an annual
31 appropriation ordinance as required under subdivision (b)(1)(A)(ii)(a) of
32 this section, expenditures of the county, including without limitation the
33 payment of salaries to employees, shall continue to be paid under the annual
34 appropriation ordinance from the previous year until a new annual
35 appropriation ordinance is adopted.
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1 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
2 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that when a county quorum court
3 does not pass an annual appropriation ordinance the county cannot provide
4 basic services and the county employees cannot be paid; that this act will
5 allow expenditures to be paid until an annual appropriation ordinance is in
6 place; that the lack of an appropriation ordinance makes it impossible for
7 the county to provide necessary services to the citizens of the county, which
8 threatens the public peace, health, and safety of the residents of the
9 county; and that this act is immediately necessary because failure to pass an
10 annual appropriation ordinance puts county employees in financial distress
11 and at risk of being unable to pay for financial responsibilities. Therefore,
12 an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary
13 for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become
14 effective on:

15 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

16 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
17 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
18 bill; or

19 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
20 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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