1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: S3/10/25*
2 95th General Assembly **A Bill**
3 Regular Session, 2025 SENATE BILL 353
4
5 By: Senator Hester
6 By: Representative Wooldridge
7
8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**
9 *AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING THE DATES FOR*
10 *ELECTIONS; TO AMEND THE DATES OF PRIMARY ELECTIONS,*
11 *SCHOOL ELECTIONS, AND CERTAIN SPECIAL ELECTIONS; TO*
12 *CHANGE THE DATE OF THE FISCAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL*
13 *ASSEMBLY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*
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16 **Subtitle**
17 *TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING THE*
18 *DATES FOR ELECTIONS; TO AMEND THE DATES*
19 *OF PRIMARY ELECTIONS, SCHOOL ELECTIONS,*
20 *AND CERTAIN SPECIAL ELECTIONS; AND TO*
21 *CHANGE THE DATE OF THE FISCAL SESSION OF*
22 *THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.*
23
24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
25
26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-14-102(a)(1)(A), concerning the date of
27 the annual school election, is amended to read as follows:
28 (a)(1)(A) The annual school election shall be held in each school district
29 of the state:
30 (i) In even-numbered years, on the date of the:
31 (a) Preferential primary election; or
32 (b) General election; and
33 (ii) In odd-numbered years, on the:
34 (a) Second Tuesday in November; or
35 (b) Second Tuesday in May on the first Tuesday
36 after the first Monday in March.

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2   *SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-14-111(k), concerning candidate filing*
3   *procedures for school elections, is amended to read as follows:*
4   *(k) The order in which the names of the respective candidates are to*
5   *appear on the ballot shall be determined by lot at the public meeting of the*
6   *county board of election commissioners held not later than:*
7   *(1) The deadline to conduct the ballot draw for the preferential*
8   *primary or general election for an annual school election held in even-*
9   *numbered years;* and
10   *(2) The seventh day of March for an annual school election held*
11   *on the second Tuesday in May of an odd-numbered year; and*
12   *(3) Seventy-two (72) days before an annual school election held*
13   *on the second Tuesday of November of an odd-numbered year* Eighty-nine (89)
14   days before an annual school election in odd-numbered years.
15
16   SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-7-203(a) and (b), concerning the dates of
17   the general primary election and preferential primary election, are amended
18   to read as follows:
19   (a) The general primary election shall be held:
20   (1) For years in which the office of Governor will appear on the
21   ballot at the general election, on the third Tuesday in June preceding the
22   general election; and
23   (2) For years in which the office of President of the United
24   States will appear on the ballot at the general election, on the Tuesday four
25   (4) weeks following the preferential primary election.
26   (b) The preferential primary election shall be held:
27   (1) For years in which the office of Governor will appear on the
28   ballot at the general election, on the Tuesday four (4) weeks before the
29   general primary election; and
30   (2) For years in which the office of President of the United
31   States will appear on the ballot at the general election, on the first
32   Tuesday after the first Monday in March.
33
34   SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 7-7-203(c)(1), concerning the dates of the
35   general primary election and preferential primary election, is amended to
36   read as follows:

1   (c)(1) The party filing period shall be a one-week period ~~beginning~~
2 ~~and ending on the following dates and times:~~
3   ~~(A) For years in which the office of Governor will appear~~
4 ~~on the ballot at the general election, beginning at 12:00 noon one (1) week~~
5 ~~prior to the first day in March and ending at 12:00 noon on the second day in~~
6 ~~March; and~~
7   ~~(B) For years in which the office of President of the~~
8 ~~United States will appear on the ballot at the general election,~~ beginning at
9 12:00 noon on the first Monday in November preceding the general primary
10 election and ending at 12:00 noon on the eighth day thereafter.
11
12   SECTION *5*. Arkansas Code § 7-7-304(a)(1), concerning the names to be
13 included on the ballots in a preferential primary, is amended to read as
14 follows:
15   (a)(1) The Secretary of State shall certify to all county boards of
16 election commissioners full lists of the names of all candidates who have
17 filed party certificates with him or her to be placed on the ballots in their
18 respective counties at the preferential primary election not less than~~:~~
19   ~~(A) Seventy-five (75) days before a preferential primary~~
20 ~~election that is held in May under § 7-7-203; and~~
21   ~~(B) Ninety-two~~ ninety-two (92) days before a preferential
22 primary election ~~that is held in March under § 7-7-203~~.
23
24   SECTION *6*. Arkansas Code § 7-7-304(b)(1), concerning the names to be
25 included on the ballots in a preferential primary, is amended to read as
26 follows:
27   (b)(1) The county clerk shall certify to the county board of election
28 commissioners full lists of the names of all candidates who have filed party
29 certificates with him or her to be placed on the ballot at the preferential
30 primary election not less than~~:~~
31   ~~(A) Seventy-five (75) days before a preferential primary~~
32 ~~election that is held in May under § 7-7-203; and~~
33   ~~(B) Ninety-two~~ ninety-two (92) days before a preferential
34 primary election ~~that is held in March under § 7-7-203~~.
35
36   SECTION *7*. Arkansas Code § 7-7-305(b)(1), concerning the printing of

1 ballots and draw for ballot position, is amended to read as follows:

2 (b)(1) The order in which the names of the respective candidates are

3 to appear on the ballots at all preferential and general primary elections

4 shall be determined by lot at the public meeting of the county board of

5 election commissioners held not later than~~:~~

6 ~~(A) Seventy-two (72) days before a preferential primary~~

7 ~~election that is held in May under § 7-7-203; and~~

8 ~~(B) Eighty-nine~~ eighty-nine (89) days before a

9 preferential primary election ~~that is held in March under § 7-7-203~~.

10

11 *SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 7-11-205(a)(1), concerning dates of special*

12 *elections on measures and questions, is amended to read as follows:*

13 *(a)(1) Except as provided in subdivision (a)(2) of this section,*

14 *all special elections on measures or questions referred to the voters by*

15 *governmental entities as authorized by law shall be held on the second*

16 *Tuesday of~~:~~*

17 *~~(A) March~~ ~~or November in a year when a presidential~~*

18 *~~election is held; and~~*

19 *~~(B) May or November of all other years~~.*

20

21 SECTION *9*. Arkansas Code § 10-2-101(b)(1), concerning the time for

22 meeting by the General Assembly in fiscal session, is amended to read as

23 follows:

24 (b)(1) The General Assembly shall meet in a fiscal session to consider

25 appropriation bills in each even-numbered year at 12:00 noon on the~~:~~

26 ~~(A) Second Monday in February in years in which the~~

27 ~~preferential primary election is held in May under § 7-7-203; and~~

28 ~~(B) Second~~ second Wednesday in April ~~in years in which the~~

29 ~~preferential primary election is held in March under § 7-7-203~~.

30

31 SECTION *10*. Arkansas Code § 10-2-112(a)(1), concerning the prefiling

32 of bills and resolutions, is amended to read as follows:

33 (a)(1) The Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives and the

34 Secretary of the Senate, under the direction and supervision of the Speaker

35 of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate,

36 shall establish a system for the prefiling of bills and resolutions beginning

1   on:

2   (A)   November 15 of each year preceding a regular session

3   of the General Assembly; and

4   (B)   ~~The second Monday of January of each year of a fiscal~~

5   ~~session of the General Assembly which is held in a year in which the~~

6   ~~preferential primary election is held in May under § 7-7-203; and~~

7   ~~(C)~~   The second Monday of March of each year of a fiscal

8   session of the General Assembly ~~which is held in a year in which the~~

9   ~~preferential primary election is held in March under § 7-7-203.~~

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11   SECTION *11*. Arkansas Code § 10-3-2104(d)(3), concerning reports under

12   the Continuing Advocacy Evaluation Act of 2004, is amended to read as

13   follows:

14   (3)   If the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee

15   on Education find that the recommendations in the most recent adequacy

16   evaluation report filed under this section should be amended, the House

17   Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education, jointly or

18   separately, or both, shall advise in writing the President Pro Tempore of the

19   Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of their findings and

20   amendments to the adequacy evaluation report~~:~~.

21   ~~(A)   By November 1 of the calendar year before the~~

22   ~~beginning of a fiscal session that is held in a year in which the~~

23   ~~preferential primary election is held in May under § 7-7-203; and~~

24   ~~(B)   By~~ by March 1 of the calendar year before the

25   beginning of a fiscal session ~~that is held in a year in which the~~

26   ~~preferential primary election is held in March under § 7-7-203.~~

27

28   SECTION *12*. Arkansas Code § 19-4-304(b), concerning regular and fiscal

29   session preparations, is amended to read as follows:

30   (b)   The secretary shall submit the annual revenue forecast to the

31   Legislative Council:

32   (1)   ~~By December 1 of the year preceding a fiscal session that is~~

33   ~~held in a year in which the preferential primary election will be held in May~~

34   ~~under § 7-7-203;~~

35   ~~(2)~~   By February 1 of a year preceding a fiscal session ~~that is~~

36   ~~held in a year in which the preferential primary election is held in March~~

1   ~~under § 7-7-203~~; and
2   ~~(3)~~(2) No later than sixty (60) days before the start of a
3   regular session.
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5   */s/Hester*
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