

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

A Bill

SENATE BILL 353

5 By: Senator Hester
6 By: Representative Wooldridge
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE DATE OF THE PRIMARY ELECTION; TO
10 PROVIDE THAT THE PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION SHALL
11 BE HELD IN MARCH; TO CHANGE THE DATE OF THE FISCAL
12 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; AND FOR OTHER
13 PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

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16
17 TO AMEND THE DATE OF THE PRIMARY
18 ELECTION; TO PROVIDE THAT THE
19 PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION SHALL BE
20 HELD IN MARCH; AND TO CHANGE THE DATE OF
21 THE FISCAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY.
23

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
25

26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-7-203(a) and (b), concerning the dates of
27 the general primary election and preferential primary election, are amended
28 to read as follows:

29 (a) The general primary election shall be held+

30 ~~(1) For years in which the office of Governor will appear on the~~
31 ~~ballot at the general election, on the third Tuesday in June preceding the~~
32 ~~general election; and~~

33 ~~(2) For years in which the office of President of the United~~
34 ~~States will appear on the ballot at the general election, on the Tuesday four~~
35 (4) weeks following the preferential primary election.

36 (b) The preferential primary election shall be held+



1 ~~(1) For years in which the office of Governor will appear on the~~
2 ~~ballot at the general election, on the Tuesday four (4) weeks before the~~
3 ~~general primary election; and~~

4 ~~(2) For years in which the office of President of the United~~
5 ~~States will appear on the ballot at the general election, on the first~~
6 ~~Tuesday after the first Monday in March.~~

7
8 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-7-203(c)(1), concerning the dates of the
9 general primary election and preferential primary election, is amended to
10 read as follows:

11 (c)(1) The party filing period shall be a one-week period ~~beginning~~
12 ~~and ending on the following dates and times:~~

13 ~~(A) For years in which the office of Governor will appear~~
14 ~~on the ballot at the general election, beginning at 12:00 noon one (1) week~~
15 ~~prior to the first day in March and ending at 12:00 noon on the second day in~~
16 ~~March; and~~

17 ~~(B) For years in which the office of President of the~~
18 ~~United States will appear on the ballot at the general election, beginning at~~
19 ~~12:00 noon on the first Monday in November preceding the general primary~~
20 ~~election and ending at 12:00 noon on the eighth day thereafter.~~

21
22 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-7-304(a)(1), concerning the names to be
23 included on the ballots in a preferential primary, is amended to read as
24 follows:

25 (a)(1) The Secretary of State shall certify to all county boards of
26 election commissioners full lists of the names of all candidates who have
27 filed party certificates with him or her to be placed on the ballots in their
28 respective counties at the preferential primary election not less than:

29 ~~(A) Seventy five (75) days before a preferential primary~~
30 ~~election that is held in May under § 7-7-203; and~~

31 ~~(B) Ninety two ninety-two (92) days before a preferential~~
32 ~~primary election that is held in March under § 7-7-203.~~

33
34 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 7-7-304(b)(1), concerning the names to be
35 included on the ballots in a preferential primary, is amended to read as
36 follows:

1 (b)(1) The county clerk shall certify to the county board of election
 2 commissioners full lists of the names of all candidates who have filed party
 3 certificates with him or her to be placed on the ballot at the preferential
 4 primary election not less than+

5 ~~(A) Seventy five (75) days before a preferential primary~~
 6 ~~election that is held in May under § 7-7-203; and~~

7 ~~(B) Ninety two ninety-two (92) days before a preferential~~
 8 ~~primary election that is held in March under § 7-7-203.~~

9
 10 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 7-7-305(b)(1), concerning the printing of
 11 ballots and draw for ballot position, is amended to read as follows:

12 (b)(1) The order in which the names of the respective candidates are
 13 to appear on the ballots at all preferential and general primary elections
 14 shall be determined by lot at the public meeting of the county board of
 15 election commissioners held not later than+

16 ~~(A) Seventy two (72) days before a preferential primary~~
 17 ~~election that is held in May under § 7-7-203; and~~

18 ~~(B) Eighty nine eighty-nine (89) days before a~~
 19 ~~preferential primary election that is held in March under § 7-7-203.~~

20
 21 SECTION 6. 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 7. Arkansas Code § 10-2-112(a)(1), concerning the prefiling of
 32 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.~~

10

11 SECTION 8. 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 9. 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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