

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1271

5 By: Representatives Harris, Dotson
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE MEMBERSHIP OF VARIOUS STATE
9 BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS; TO REQUIRE THE ELECTION OF
10 SOME MEMBERS OF THE STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS; AND
11 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

14 TO AMEND THE MEMBERSHIP OF VARIOUS STATE
15 BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS; AND TO REQUIRE
16 THE ELECTION OF SOME MEMBERS OF THE STATE
17 BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-11-101 is amended to read as follows:
24 6-11-101. Members.

25 (a)(1) The State Board of Education shall be composed of nine (9)
26 members, eight (8) of whom are elected in the manner required under the
27 general election laws of this state and one (1) appointed as follows:

28 ~~(1)(A)~~ Two (2) members ~~to be selected~~ elected from each of
29 the congressional districts of the state ~~as they exist on the July 31, 2007;~~
30 and

31 ~~(2)(B)~~ One (1) member to be appointed at large from within
32 the state by the Governor.

33 (2) A candidate shall file for office with the Secretary of
34 State in the manner required under the general election laws of this state.

35 (b)~~(1)~~ The term of office of a member of the state board ~~shall be for~~
36 ~~a single term of seven (7) years;~~



1 (1)(A) Shall be four (4) years.

2 (B) The terms shall be staggered as follows:

3 (i) One (1) member from each congressional district
 4 shall serve an initial term of two (2) years;

5 (ii) One (1) member from each congressional district
 6 shall serve an initial term of four (4) years; and

7 (iii) The member at large shall serve an initial
 8 term of four (4) years;

9 (2) Shall be limited to two (2) four-year terms; and

10 (3) Shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31.

11 ~~(2)(A) Any member appointed to the state board to fill a vacancy~~
 12 ~~for an uncompleted term with less than three (3) years remaining on the~~
 13 ~~original term may be reappointed to an additional term of seven (7) years.~~

14 ~~(B) No member serving three (3) or more years on the state~~
 15 ~~board may be reappointed.~~

16 ~~(3) No current or new member shall be allowed to resign in order~~
 17 ~~to be appointed to a new term on the state board.~~

18 ~~(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to change the~~
 19 ~~terms of any member of the state board who was appointed prior to June 3,~~
 20 ~~2004.~~

21 ~~(c) The membership of the state board shall reflect the diversity in~~
 22 ~~general education.~~

23 ~~(d)(1) No person may serve as a member of the state board unless he or~~
 24 ~~she is a qualified elector and is a person of high moral standards and~~
 25 ~~recognized ability.~~

26 ~~(2)(c) A member of the state board:~~

27 (1) Shall be a qualified elector who is twenty-five (25) years
 28 of age or older;

29 (2) For a position representing a congressional district, shall
 30 be a resident of the congressional district from which he or she is seeking
 31 election for one (1) year preceding the election; and

32 (3) Shall not be:

33 (A) Neither the The Commissioner of Education nor any;

34 (B) A candidate for any other public office;

35 (C) The holder of a public office in the state;

36 (D) schoolteacher An employee of a public school or school

1 district in this state;

2 (E) A county or city superintendent;

3 (F) An employee of a state-supported college or
 4 university, institution of higher education; or

5 (G) A member of any board of trustees of any state a
 6 state-supported institution of higher learning shall serve as a member of the
 7 state board education in this state.

8 ~~(e)(d)~~ The members of the state board shall be appointed by the
 9 Governor, subject to the confirmation of the Senate and shall take the oath
 10 of office for officers prescribed by the Arkansas Constitution.

11 ~~(f)(1)(e)(1)~~ Whenever a vacancy occurs in the membership of the state
 12 board by death, resignation, or removal from office, the Governor shall
 13 appoint a successor who shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term of
 14 the member ~~that~~ whom he or she succeeded, subject to all other provisions of
 15 this section.

16 (2) ~~Resignation, removal from the district from which he or she~~
 17 ~~is appointed, disqualification, incapacitation from mental or physical~~
 18 ~~disability or otherwise, or change in status from the eligibility~~
 19 ~~requirements for membership on the state board shall automatically create a~~
 20 ~~vacancy in the membership of the state board, and no such member shall~~
 21 ~~thereafter exercise any of the functions of membership on the state board~~
 22 ~~even though his or her successor has not been appointed~~ The Governor shall
 23 fill a vacancy with a person who meets the qualifications for the position
 24 vacated.

25 ~~(g)(1) Members of the state board shall be subject to removal from~~
 26 ~~office by the Governor when the actions or condition of a member shall be~~
 27 ~~considered as sufficient cause for removal.~~

28 ~~(2) However, before a member may be removed for cause, this~~
 29 ~~cause must have been accepted as true, good, and sufficient by a majority~~
 30 ~~written vote of all members of the state board after a formal hearing at a~~
 31 ~~regular or special session of the state board.~~

32 ~~(h)(f)~~ The members of the state board shall serve without remuneration
 33 but may receive expense reimbursement and stipends in accordance with § 25-
 34 16-901 et seq., as follows:

35 (1) Actual expenses while attending regular and special meetings
 36 of the state board; and

1 (2) A per diem allowance when in attendance at regular or
2 special meetings of the state board.

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4 SECTION 2. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY.

5 (a) The first election of members of the State Board of Education
6 under this act shall be the 2016 general election.

7 (b)(1) The term of a person who is a member of the state board on the
8 effective date of this act or who is appointed to the state board after the
9 effective date of this act and before the 2016 general election shall expire
10 on December 31, 2016.

11 (2) A person who is a member of the state board before the 2016
12 general election and who meets all other qualifications for members under
13 this act is eligible to be a candidate for a position on the state board in
14 the 2016 general election.

15 (c) At the first regular meeting of the state board following the
16 election, the members representing each of the four (4) congressional
17 districts shall draw for staggered terms as provided under this act.

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