

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: S3/15/17
A Bill

SENATE BILL 698

By: Senator B. King

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE PUBLICATION OF
PUBLIC NOTICE OF BALLOT MEASURES; TO CREATE THE
MANDATORY PUBLICATION REIMBURSEMENT FUND; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE
PUBLICATION OF PUBLIC NOTICE OF BALLOT
MEASURES; AND TO CREATE THE MANDATORY
PUBLICATION REIMBURSEMENT FUND.

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

*SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-9-113 is amended to read as follows:
7-9-113. Publication of notice.*

*(a)(1) The Secretary of State shall be charged with the duty of
letting contracts for publishing notices as authorized in this section.*

*(2)(A) For measures proposed by petition, the petition sponsor
shall reimburse the cost of publication to the Secretary of State within
thirty (30) calendar days of notification of the final costs for publication.*

*(B) The Secretary of State shall provide the sponsor of
the measure a complete cost breakdown including the:*

*(i) Number of locations where the measure was
published;*

(ii) Number of times the measure was published;

(iii) Dates the measure was published; and

(iv) Costs for publishing the measure.



(C) The reimbursement shall be placed by the Secretary of State into the Mandatory Publication Reimbursement Fund.

(b)(1) Before the election at which any proposed or referred measure is to be voted upon by the people, notice shall be published in two (2) weekly issues of some newspaper in each county as is provided by law.

(2)(A) Publication of the notice for amendments proposed by the General Assembly shall commence six (6) months before the election.

(B) Publication of the notice for all other measures shall commence eight (8) weeks before the election.

~~(c) At least one (1) notice shall contain the number, the popular name, the ballot title, and a complete text of the measure to be submitted and shall be published in a camera-ready format in a type no smaller than ten-point type.~~

(c)(1) For amendments proposed by the General Assembly, at least one (1) notice shall:

(A) Contain the number, the popular name, the ballot title, and a complete text of the amendment to be submitted; and

(B) Be published in a camera-ready format in a type no smaller than 10-point type.

(2) For all other proposed measures or amendments, at least one (1) notice shall:

(A) Contain the number, the popular name, and the ballot title of the measure to be submitted;

(B) Reference a website where the full text of the measure is published; and

(C) Be published in a camera-ready format in a type no smaller than 10-point type.

(d) It shall be the duty of the Secretary of State, in connection with ~~a copy~~ notice of the proposed ~~amendment~~ measure, to give notice in the same newspapers that each elector on depositing his or her ballot at the election shall vote for or against the ~~amendment~~ measure.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 19, Chapter 5, Subchapter 12, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

19-5-1258. Mandatory Publication Reimbursement Fund

(a) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, the

Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a miscellaneous fund to be known as the "Mandatory Publication Reimbursement Fund".

(b) The fund shall consist of reimbursements to the Secretary of State for mandatory publication of petitions and measures under § 7-9-113.

/s/B. King

APPROVED: BECAME LAW ON 04/07/2017 WITHOUT THE GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE.