

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
90th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2015

As Engrossed: S3/25/15
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1687

By: Representative Ballinger

By: Senator *B. King*

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING BALLOT QUESTIONS;
TO ADD CLARITY TO THE FORMAT OF A BALLOT QUESTION;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING BALLOT
QUESTIONS; AND TO ADD CLARITY TO THE
FORMAT OF A BALLOT QUESTION.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 14-14-917(d), concerning ballot specifications for county initiative and referendum measures, is amended to read as follows:

(d) Ballot Specifications for Initiative and Referendum Measures.

(1)(A) Upon receipt of any initiative or referendum measure certified as sufficient by a county clerk, it shall be the duty of the members of the county board of election commissioners to take due cognizance and to certify the results of the vote cast thereon. ~~So that electors may vote upon the ordinance or measure,~~

(B)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (d)(1)(B)(ii) of this section, the board shall cause the ballot title to be placed on the ballot to be used in the election, stating plainly and separately the title of the ordinance or measure so initiated or referred by the quorum court to the electors with these words:

“FOR PROPOSED INITIATIVE (OR REFERRED) ORDINANCE (OR AMENDMENT OR



MEASURE)

NO. _____

AGAINST PROPOSED INITIATIVE (OR REFERRED) ORDINANCE (OR AMENDMENT OR MEASURE)

NO. _____".

(ii) If the election concerns repeal of an ordinance or measure by referendum petition, the ballot shall state plainly the title of the initiated ordinance or referred measure with these words:

"FOR REPEAL OF THE INITIATIVE (OR REFERRED) ORDINANCE (OR AMENDMENT OR MEASURE)

NO. _____

AGAINST REPEAL OF THE INITIATIVE (OR REFERRED) ORDINANCE (OR AMENDMENT OR MEASURE)

NO. _____

(2) In arranging the ballot title on the ballot, the commissioners shall place it separate and apart from the ballot titles of the state acts, constitutional amendments, and the like. If the board of election commissioners fails or refuses to submit a proposed initiative or referendum ordinance when it is properly petitioned and certified as sufficient, the qualified electors of the county may vote for or against the ordinance or measure by writing or stamping on their ballots the proposed ballot title, followed by the word "FOR" or "AGAINST", and a majority of the votes so cast shall be sufficient to adopt or reject the proposed ordinance.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 14, Chapter 55, Subchapter 3, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

14-55-303. Form of ordinance ballot question.

(a)(1) Except as provided in subdivision (a)(2) of this section, the ballot in an election on an ordinance proposed by initiative shall plainly state the title of the ordinance to be voted on, followed by the words:

"FOR PROPOSED INITIATIVE NO. _____

AGAINST PROPOSED INITIATIVE NO. _____".

(2) If the election is for repeal of an ordinance by referendum petition, the ballot in the election shall plainly state the title of the ordinance to be voted on followed by the words:

"FOR REPEAL OF THE ORDINANCE NO. _____

AGAINST REPEAL OF THE ORDINANCE NO. _____".

(b) The ballot in an election on a referred measure shall plainly state the title of the referred measure followed by the words:

"FOR REFERRED MEASURE (OR ORDINANCE OR AMENDMENT)

NO. _____

AGAINST REFERRED MEASURE (OR ORDINANCE OR AMENDMENT)

/s/Ballinger