

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

State of Arkansas  
91st General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2017

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1931

By: Representatives Gillam, M. Gray, Ballinger, Sturch

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPROVAL OF BALLOT TITLES AND  
POPULAR NAMES OF PETITIONS PRIOR TO CIRCULATION; AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

CONCERNING THE APPROVAL OF BALLOT TITLES  
AND POPULAR NAMES OF PETITIONS PRIOR TO  
CIRCULATION.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-9-107 is amended to read as follows:

7-9-107. Approval of ballot titles and popular names of petitions  
prior to circulation – Publication.

(a) Before any initiative or referendum petition ordering a vote upon  
any amendment or act shall be circulated for obtaining signatures of  
petitioners, the sponsors shall submit the original draft to the Attorney  
General, with a proposed legislative or ballot title and popular name.

(b) ~~Within~~ Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section,  
within ten (10) days, the Attorney General shall approve and certify ~~or shall~~  
~~substitute and certify a more suitable and correct~~ the ballot title and  
popular name submitted for each amendment or act. ~~The ballot title so~~  
~~submitted or supplied by the Attorney General shall briefly and concisely~~  
~~state the purpose of the proposed measure.~~

(c) If, as a result of his or her review of the ballot title and  
popular name of a proposed initiated act or a proposed amendment to the  
Arkansas Constitution, the Attorney General determines that the ballot title,



or the nature of the issue, is presented in such manner that the ballot title would be misleading or designed in such manner that a vote "FOR" the issue would be a vote against the matter or viewpoint that the voter believes himself or herself casting a vote for, or, conversely, that a vote "AGAINST" an issue would be a vote for a viewpoint that the voter is against, the Attorney General ~~may~~ shall reject the entire ballot title, popular name, and petition and state his or her reasons therefor and instruct the petitioners to redesign the proposed measure and the ballot title and popular name in a manner that would not be misleading.

(d) If the Attorney General refuses to act or if the sponsors feel aggrieved at the Attorney General's acts in such premises, the sponsors may, by petition, apply to the Supreme Court for proper relief.

(e) [Repealed.]

(f) [Repealed.]