

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

State of Arkansas  
91st General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: S2/9/17  
**A Bill**

SENATE BILL 176

By: Senator B. King

### **For An Act To Be Entitled**

*AN ACT TO PROTECT THE ELDERLY FROM DECEPTIVE  
CANVASSING PRACTICES; TO PROHIBIT AN ADMINISTRATOR OR  
EMPLOYEE OF A NURSING HOME FACILITY FROM GATHERING  
PETITION SIGNATURES FROM VULNERABLE RESIDENTS; AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

### **Subtitle**

*TO PROHIBIT DECEPTIVE CANVASSING  
PRACTICES; AND TO PROHIBIT AN  
ADMINISTRATOR OR EMPLOYEE OF A NURSING  
HOME FACILITY FROM GATHERING PETITION  
SIGNATURES FROM VULNERABLE RESIDENTS.*

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

*SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-9-103(d), concerning signing of petition, penalty for falsification, and notice of suspected forgery, is amended to read as follows:*

*(d)(1) It is unlawful for an administrator or employee of a nursing home facility or long-term care facility to knowingly:*

*(A) Act as a paid or unpaid canvasser, sponsor, or agent of a sponsor of a petition; and*

*(B) Obtain or attempt to obtain signatures from the residents of the nursing home facility or long-term care facility that he or she oversees or where he or she is employed.*

*(2) A person who is an administrator of a nursing home or long-term care facility who violates subdivision (d)(1) of this section is upon*



conviction guilty of a Class D felony.

(3) A person who is an employee of a nursing home or long-term care facility who violated subdivision (d)(1) of this section is upon conviction guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

~~(d)~~(e) When the official charged with verifying the signatures has reasonable grounds to believe that one (1) or more signatures on a petition is forged, excluding signatures apparently signed by one (1) spouse for another, the official shall report the suspected forgery and basis for suspecting forgery to:

(1) The Department of Arkansas State Police, in the case of a statewide petition; or

(2) The prosecuting attorney of the county, in the case of a local petition.

/s/B. King