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

State of Arkansas
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

A Bill

SENATE BILL 163

By: Senator T. Garner
By: Representative Wardlaw

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING PETITION REQUIREMENTS TO FORM A NEW POLITICAL PARTY; TO REQUIRE SIGNATURES IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THREE PERCENT (3%) OF THE TOTAL VOTES CAST IN THE MOST RECENT GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING PETITION REQUIREMENTS TO FORM A NEW POLITICAL PARTY; TO REQUIRE SIGNATURES OF THREE PERCENT (3%) OF THE TOTAL VOTES CAST IN THE MOST RECENT GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-7-205(a)(2), concerning the signature requirement for a petition to form a new political party, is amended to read as follows:

(2) The petition shall contain at the time of filing the signatures of ~~at least ten thousand (10,000) registered voters in the state~~ registered voters in an amount that equals or exceeds three percent (3%) of the total votes cast for the Office of Governor in the immediately preceding general election for Governor.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the current laws concerning signature requirements for certain petitions are insufficient to reflect the will of the voters of Arkansas; that this act must become effective before the date upon which petitions can be circulated in order to preserve fair access to the elections; and that this act is immediately necessary to ensure voter and candidate rights are observed in the upcoming election. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.