

**Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the Arkansas Constitution.**

State of Arkansas  
92nd General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2019

SJR 17

By: Senator G. Stubblefield  
By: Representatives Capp, Gazaway, Vaught

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION**

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO PERMIT  
LIMITS ON AWARDS OF PUNITIVE DAMAGES IN CIVIL  
ACTIONS.

**Subtitle**

A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PERMITTING  
LIMITS ON AWARDS OF PUNITIVE DAMAGES.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

THAT the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, to wit:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 32, is amended to read as follows:

§ 32. Workmen's Compensation Laws – Actions for personal injuries.

(a) The General Assembly shall have power to enact laws prescribing the amount of compensation to be paid by employers for injuries to or death of employees, and to whom said payment shall be made. It shall have power to provide the means, methods, and forum for adjudicating claims arising under



said laws, and for securing payment of same.

(b) The General Assembly may enact laws limiting the amount of punitive damages that may be awarded for each claimant in actions for injuries resulting in death or for injuries to persons or property, including without limitation medical injuries.

(c) Provided, that otherwise no law shall be enacted limiting the amount to be recovered for injuries resulting in death or for injuries to persons or property; and in case of death from such injuries the right of action shall survive, and the General Assembly shall prescribe for whose benefit such action shall be prosecuted.

SECTION 2. BALLOT TITLE AND POPULAR NAME. When this proposed amendment is submitted to the electors of this state on the general election ballot:

(1) The popular name for this proposed amendment shall be "An Amendment to the Arkansas Constitution Concerning Limits on Awards of Punitive Damages in Civil Actions"; and

(2) The ballot title for this proposed amendment shall be "An Amendment to the Arkansas Constitution Providing that the General Assembly May Enact Laws Limiting the Amount of Punitive Damages that May Be Awarded in Actions for Injuries Resulting in Death or for Injuries to Persons or Property".