

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

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1785

By: Representative Bryant

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS ELECTION LAW; TO ALLOW A CANDIDATE TO WITHDRAW FROM AN ELECTION AT ANY TIME; TO CLARIFY WHEN A CANDIDATE MAY WITHDRAW FROM THE BALLOT; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING RUNOFF ELECTIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND ARKANSAS ELECTION LAW; TO ALLOW A CANDIDATE TO WITHDRAW FROM AN ELECTION AT ANY TIME; TO CLARIFY WHEN A CANDIDATE MAY WITHDRAW FROM THE BALLOT; AND TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING RUNOFF ELECTIONS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-5-106(a), concerning runoff elections for county and municipal officers, is amended to add additional subdivisions to read as follows:

(3) A name of a person shall not be certified and shall not be placed on the runoff ballot if prior to the deadline to include a candidate on the runoff ballot a candidate:

(A) Notifies the Secretary of State or county clerk in writing, signed by the candidate and acknowledged before an officer authorized to take acknowledgements, of his or her desire to withdraw as a candidate; or

(B) Dies.



(4) If a candidate withdraws or dies prior to the runoff election, the remaining candidate shall be declared the winner.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 14-43-304(c), concerning elections of mayors in cities having mayor-council government, is amended to add additional subdivisions to read as follows:

(3) A name of a person shall not be certified and shall not be placed on the runoff ballot if prior to the deadline to include a candidate on the runoff ballot a candidate:

(A) Notifies the Secretary of State or county clerk in writing, signed by the candidate and acknowledged before an officer authorized to take acknowledgements, of his or her desire to withdraw as a candidate for the position of mayor; or

(B) Dies.

(4) If a candidate withdraws or dies prior to the runoff election, the remaining candidate for the position of mayor shall be declared the winner.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 14-61-111(b)(3), concerning the selection of mayor, is amended to add additional subdivisions to read as follows:

(C) A name of a person shall not be certified and shall not be placed on the runoff ballot if prior to the deadline to include a candidate on the runoff ballot a candidate:

(i) Notifies the Secretary of State or county clerk in writing, signed by the candidate and acknowledged before an officer authorized to take acknowledgements, of his or her desire to withdraw as a candidate for the position of mayor; or

(ii) Dies.

(D) If a candidate withdraws or dies prior to the runoff election, the remaining candidate for the position of mayor shall be declared the winner.