

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

State of Arkansas  
95th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H1/16/25 H3/20/25

## A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1037

By: Representatives A. Collins, D. Garner, Gonzales Worthen, Springer

By: Senator C. Tucker

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE PREREGISTRATION TO VOTE ACT; TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING PERSONS WHO MAY REGISTER TO VOTE; TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, AMENDMENT 51, UNDER THE AUTHORITY GRANTED BY ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, AMENDMENT 51, § 19; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

AN ACT TO CREATE THE PREREGISTRATION TO VOTE ACT; AND TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, AMENDMENT 51, UNDER THE AUTHORITY GRANTED BY ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, AMENDMENT 51, § 19.

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

*SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. TITLE. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Preregistration to Vote Act."*

*SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.*

*(a) The General Assembly finds that:*

*(1) Arkansas ranks forty-ninth (49th) among states in voter registration and forty-eighth (48th) among states in voter turnout;*

*(2) High voter turnout helps ensure that the will of the people will be respected by government, confers legitimacy on government, strengthens popular trust in government, and enforces government accountability;*



(3) The voting age is fixed by the United States Constitution at eighteen (18) years of age;

(4) Twenty-eight (28) other states allow preregistration, in which a person may register before eighteen (18) years of age but not vote until eighteen (18) years of age;

(5) Research shows preregistration to have positive and significant effects on voter turnout; and

(6) Research shows preregistration to be equally effective for Republican and Democratic registrants.

(b) It is the intent of this act to allow preregistration for persons seventeen (17) years of age before reaching eighteen (18) years of age.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 6(a)(6)(B), concerning voter registration application forms, is amended under the authority granted by Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 19, to read as follows:

(B) ~~“Will you be eighteen (18) years of age on or before election day~~ Are you seventeen (17) years of age or older?”;

SECTION 4. Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 9(a), concerning applications to register to vote, is amended under the authority granted by Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 19, to read as follows:

(a) All persons may register who:

(1) Have not been convicted of a felony unless the person’s sentence has been discharged or the person has been pardoned;

(2) Have not been adjudged mentally incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction; and

(3) Meet one (1) of the following requirements:

(A) Are qualified electors who have not previously registered;

(B) ~~Will~~ Except as provided in subsection (m) of this section, will become qualified electors during the thirty-day period immediately prior to the next election scheduled within the county; ~~or~~

(C) Are seventeen (17) years of age and eligible to register under subsection (m) of this section; or

~~(C)(D)~~ Are otherwise qualified electors but whose

registration has been cancelled in a manner provided for by this amendment.

(4) Are citizens of the United States.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 9, concerning applications to register to vote, is amended under the authority granted by Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 19, to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(m)(1)(A) A person who is seventeen (17) years of age who is otherwise eligible to register to vote under subsection (a) of this section may register under this section.

(B) A registered voter who is seventeen (17) years of age shall not vote in an election before turning eighteen (18) years of age.

(2)(A) A person who is seventeen (17) years of age and registers under this section shall be added to the voter registration list with a designation that the person is not eligible to vote until the date he or she turns eighteen (18) years of age.

(B) The designation under subdivision (m)(2)(A) of this section shall be removed when the person turns eighteen (18) years of age.

SECTION 6. Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 41, § 14, is amended under the authority granted by Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 19, to read as follows:

§ 14. Voter registration lists.

(a)(1) By the first day of June of each year, and at such other times as may be practicable, all Permanent Registrars shall, and at their discretion at other times may, print or otherwise duplicate and publish lists of registered voters by precincts, and may distribute such lists pursuant to §§ 7-5-105 and 7-5-109.

(2) A copy of the most current such list in each precinct shall be furnished to the election officials at each precinct at the time the ballot boxes are delivered and such election officials shall post said list at a conspicuous place in the polling area.

(b)(1) By the first day of June of each year, the Permanent Registrar shall certify to the Secretary of State the total number of registered voters in the county, including persons who are seventeen (17) years of age and have registered under § 9(m) of this amendment.

(2) The Secretary of State shall tabulate the total number of registered voters in the state and shall make such information available to interested persons upon request.

(3) The tabulation of registered voters shall include persons who are seventeen (17) years of age and have registered under § 9(m) of this amendment.

*/s/A. Collins*