

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 H1/23/25

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1042

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

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE DIRECT DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2025; TO REPEAL THE ENSURING ACCESS FOR ALL ARKANSANS AND VOTER PROTECTION ACT OF 2023; TO AMEND THE PROCEDURE FOR THE FILING OF A BALLOT INITIATIVE PETITION AND REFERENDUM PETITION; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING STATEWIDE PETITIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO CREATE THE DIRECT DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2025; TO REPEAL THE ENSURING ACCESS FOR ALL ARKANSANS AND VOTER PROTECTION ACT OF 2023; AND TO AMEND THE PROCEDURE FOR THE FILING OF A BALLOT INITIATIVE PETITION AND REFERENDUM PETITION.

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 Direct Democracy Act of 2025".

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-9-126(e) and (f), concerning the count of signatures for initiative petitions or referendum petitions, are repealed.

~~(e) In order to certify a measure for the statewide election ballot, the official charged with verifying the signatures on an initiative petition or referendum petition shall also verify:~~

~~(1) For a statutory initiative petition or referendum petition,~~



~~that:~~

~~(A) Petitions are filed from at least fifty (50) counties of the state; and~~

~~(B) The petitions bear the signature of at least one half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the designated percentage of the electors of each county represented in subdivision (c)(1)(A) of this section; and~~

~~(2) For an initiative petition for a constitutional amendment, that:~~

~~(A) Petitions are filed from at least fifty (50) counties of the state; and~~

~~(B) The petitions bear the signature of at least one half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the designated percentage of the electors of each county represented in subdivision (c)(2)(A) of this section.~~

~~(f) If the requirements of subsection (c) of this section are less than the designated number of signatures or counties represented by petitions required by the Arkansas Constitution and statutory law in order to certify the measure for the ballot and the deadline for filing petitions has passed, the official charged with verifying the signatures shall declare the petition insufficient and shall not accept and file any additional signatures to cure the insufficiency of the petition on its face.~~

*/s/A. Collins*