

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

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H1/16/25 H1/22/25*
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

HJR 1002

By: Representatives J. Richardson, A. Collins, F. Allen, Barnett, Ennett, K. Ferguson, McGruder, T. Shephard, Springer

By: Senators R. Murdock, J. Scott

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO REPEAL
THE EXCEPTION TO THE PROHIBITION OF SLAVERY AND
INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE.

Subtitle

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS
CONSTITUTION TO REPEAL THE EXCEPTION TO
THE PROHIBITION OF SLAVERY AND
INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE SENATE, 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. Intent of amendment.

(a) Arkansas Constitution, Article 2, § 27, permits slavery and involuntary servitude as a punishment for crime.

(b) As the Arkansas Constitution is the moral and legal foundation of our state, abolishing all forms of slavery in the Arkansas Constitution



represents the fundamental values held by the citizens of Arkansas.

(c) If a prisoner is working, he or she should be compensated for that labor with money or "good time" to aid his or her re-entry into society.

(d) The intent of this amendment is to repeal the portion of Arkansas Constitution, Article 2, § 27, allowing slavery and involuntary servitude as a punishment for crime in order to fully abolish slavery in the State of Arkansas and recognize the moral and economic benefits that will result from ending this practice.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Constitution, Article 2, § 27, is amended to read as follows:

§ 27. Slavery – Standing armies – Military subordinate to civil power.

There shall be no slavery in this State, nor involuntary servitude, ~~except as a punishment for crime.~~ No standing army shall be kept in time of peace; the military shall, at all times, be in strict subordination to the civil power; and no soldier shall be quartered in any house, or on any premises, without the consent of the owner, in time of peace; nor in time of war, except in a manner prescribed by law.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment to the Arkansas Constitution shall be effective on and after January 1, 2027.

SECTION 4. BALLOT TITLE AND POPULAR NAME. When this proposed amendment is submitted to the electors of this state on the general election ballot:

(1) The title of this Joint Resolution shall be the ballot title; and

(2) The popular name shall be "A Constitutional Amendment to Repeal the Exception to the Prohibition of Slavery and Involuntary Servitude."

/s/J. Richardson