

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

State of Arkansas  
95th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2025

HJR 1017

By: Representative Ray  
By: Senator J. Payton

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION**

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION PROVIDING THAT A PROPOSED STATE-WIDE INITIATED ACT OR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT SHALL TAKE EFFECT AND BECOME A LAW WHEN APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE VOTES CAST UPON THE MEASURE AT THE ELECTION AND ALSO APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE VOTES CAST UPON THE MEASURE IN A MAJORITY OF THE COUNTIES OF THE STATE; AND PROVIDING THAT AN ACT, A MEASURE, OR A PORTION OF AN ACT OR MEASURE SUBJECT TO A STATE-WIDE REFERENDUM SHALL BE REPEALED IF REJECTED BY A MAJORITY OF THE ELECTORS VOTING UPON THE MATTER, REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF COUNTIES REJECTING THE ACT, MEASURE, OR PORTION OF AN ACT OR MEASURE ACCORDING TO THE VOTES CAST IN THE COUNTY.

**Subtitle**

A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROVIDING THAT A PROPOSED STATE-WIDE INITIATED ACT OR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT SHALL BECOME A LAW WHEN APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE VOTES CAST IN THE ELECTION AND A MAJORITY OF THE COUNTIES OF THE STATE.

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. The subsection of Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 1, titled "Majority", is amended to read as follows:

Majority. Any measure submitted to the people as herein provided shall take effect and become a law when approved by a majority of the votes cast upon ~~such~~ the measure, and not otherwise, and shall not be required to receive a majority of the electors voting at such election. In addition to approval by a majority of the votes cast upon the measure at the election, a state-wide measure shall take effect and become a law when approved by a majority of votes cast upon the measure in a majority of the counties of the state. However, an act, a measure, or the portion or an act or measure subject to a state-wide referendum shall be repealed if the act, measure, or portion of an act or measure is rejected by a majority of the electors voting upon the matter, regardless of the number of counties rejecting the act, measure, or portion of an act or measure according to the votes cast in the county. ~~Such measures~~ A measure approved under this amendment shall be operative on and after the thirtieth day after the election at which it is approved, unless otherwise specified in the Act.

This section shall not be construed to deprive any member of the General Assembly of the right to introduce any measure, but no measure shall be submitted to the people by the General Assembly, except a proposed constitutional amendment or amendments as provided for in this Constitution.

SECTION 2. The subsection of Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 1, titled "Conflicting Measures", is amended to read as follows:

Conflicting Measures. If conflicting measures initiated or referred to the people ~~shall be~~ are approved ~~by a majority of the votes severally cast for and against the same~~ under this amendment at the same election, the one receiving the highest number of affirmative votes shall become law.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code, Article 19, § 22, is amended to read as follows:

§ 22. Constitutional amendments.

Either branch of the General Assembly, at a regular session thereof, may propose amendments to this Constitution; and if the same be agreed to by a majority of all members elected to each house, such proposed amendments shall be entered on the journals with the yeas and nays, and published in at least one (1) newspaper in each county, where a newspaper is published, for six (6) months immediately preceding the next general election for Senators and Representatives, at which time the same shall be submitted to the electors of the State, for approval or rejection; ~~and if a majority of the electors voting at such election adopt such amendments, the same shall become a part of this Constitution~~ An amendment submitted under this section shall become a part of this Constitution if a majority of the electors voting at the next general election for Senators and Representatives approve the amendment and the amendment is also approved by a majority of votes cast upon the amendment in a majority of the counties of the state. But no more than three (3) amendments shall be proposed or submitted at the same time. They shall be so submitted as to enable the electors to vote on each amendment separately.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 70, § 2, is amended to read as follows:

§ 2. Additional Constitutional amendments authorized.

In addition to the three (3) amendments to the Constitution allowed pursuant to Article 19, § 22, either branch of the General Assembly at a regular session thereof may propose an amendment to the Constitution to change the salaries for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer of State, Commissioner of State Lands, and Auditor of State and for members of the General Assembly. If the same be agreed to by a majority of all members elected to each house, such proposed amendment shall be entered on the journals with the yeas and nays, and published in at least one (1) newspaper in each county, where a newspaper is published, for six (6) months immediately preceding the next general election for Senators and Representatives, at which time the same shall be submitted to the electors of the State for approval or rejection.

~~If a majority of the electors voting at such election adopt the amendment the same shall become a part of this Constitution~~ An amendment submitted under this section shall become a part of this Constitution if a majority of the electors voting at the next general election for Senator and Representatives approve the amendment and the amendment is also approved by a majority of votes cast upon the amendment in a majority of the counties of the state. Only one (1) amendment to the Constitution may be referred pursuant to this section.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment to the Arkansas Constitution shall be effective on and after January 1, 2027.

SECTION 6. 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 Providing that a Proposed State-Wide Initiated Act or Constitutional Amendment Shall Take Effect and Become a Law When Approved by a Majority of the Votes Cast Upon the Measure at the Election and Also Approved by a Majority of the Votes Cast Upon the Measure in a Majority of the Counties of the State; and Providing that an Act, a Measure, or the Portion of an Act or Measure Subject to a State-Wide Referendum Shall Be Repealed if Rejected by a Majority of the Electors Voting Upon the Matter, Regardless of the Number of Counties Rejecting the Act, Measure, or Portion of an Act or Measure According to the Votes Cast in the County."