

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: H2/20/25

A Bill

SENATE BILL 207

By: Senator K. Hammer

By: Representative Underwood

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PETITIONS; TO REQUIRE A CANVASSER TO DISCLOSE THAT PETITION FRAUD IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PETITIONS; TO REQUIRE A CANVASSER TO DISCLOSE THAT PETITION FRAUD IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-9-103(a), concerning the requirements of canvassers, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(7) A person acting as a canvasser shall not obtain a signature for a petition without disclosing to the potential petitioner that petition fraud is a *criminal offense* before the potential petitioner signs the petition in the custody of the canvasser by:

(A) Verbal notification; or

(B) If verbal notification is impossible, written notification with a document that is provided separately from all other petition materials.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-9-103(c), concerning the penalty for



falsification of materials related to signatures for an initiative or referendum petition, is amended to read as follows:

(10) As a canvasser, fails to disclose to a potential petitioner that petition fraud is a criminal offense before the potential petitioner signs the petition in the custody of the canvasser as described under subdivision (a)(7) of this section.

SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this act are declared to be severable and the invalidity of any provision of this act shall not affect other provisions of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision.

SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the process for citizens to propose initiated acts and amendments to the Arkansas Constitution is critical to a well-functioning democracy in this state; that it is of the utmost importance that the integrity of the initiative process be strengthened through this act so that petitioners and voters maintain a high degree of confidence in the soundness of their right to legislate as citizens of Arkansas; and that this act is immediately necessary because any delay in the implementation of this act would disrupt the initiative process for the 2026 general election, which would have a detrimental effect on the public peace, health, and safety of Arkansas. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

/s/K. Hammer