

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

As Engrossed: H3/9/23

A Bill

SENATE BILL 258

5 By: Senators Dees, K. Hammer, M. McKee, J. Petty, Stone
6 By: Representatives Burkes, Wing, Achor, Andrews, Barker, Beaty Jr., Beck, Bentley, M. Berry, Breaux,
7 Brooks, K. Brown, M. Brown, Joey Carr, C. Cooper, Cozart, Evans, C. Fite, L. Fite, Fortner, Furman,
8 Gazaway, Gonzales, Gramlich, Haak, Hawk, Hollowell, Jean, Ladyman, Long, Lundstrum, Lynch,
9 McAlindon, McClure, McCollum, M. McElroy, McGrew, B. McKenzie, McNair, S. Meeks, Miller,
10 Milligan, K. Moore, Painter, Pearce, Pilkington, Puryear, R. Scott Richardson, Richmond, Rose, Rye,
11 Schulz, Steimel, Tosh, Underwood, Vaught, Womack, Wooldridge, Wooten
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For An Act To Be Entitled

13 AN ACT TO AMEND THE METHOD OF VOTING ABSENTEE; TO
14 PROHIBIT THE USE OF ABSENTEE BALLOT DROP BOXES; AND
15 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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19 TO AMEND THE METHOD OF VOTING ABSENTEE;
20 AND TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF ABSENTEE
21 BALLOT DROP BOXES.
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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27 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-1-101, concerning definitions under*
28 *election law, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:*

29 *(44)(A) "Drop box" means:*

30 *(i) A receptacle, box, or other physical structure*
31 *used to receive absentee ballots; and*

32 *(ii) That is available for public use.*

33 *(B) "Drop box" does not include a receptacle, box, or*
34 *other physical structure that is provided by or used by a mail carrier*
35 *authorized to receive or deliver absentee ballots under law.*
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1 *Section 2. Arkansas Code § 7-5-411(a), concerning the methods of*
2 *voting absentee, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as*
3 *follows:*

4 (5)(A) A county clerk, public employee, or election official
5 shall not establish or use a drop box for the purpose of collecting absentee
6 ballots.

7 (B) No person shall deliver an absentee ballot through a
8 drop box.

9 (6) All absentee ballots not delivered by mail shall be hand-
10 delivered inside the physical office of the county clerk under the
11 requirements of this section and chapter.

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13 */s/Dees*
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16 **APPROVED: 3/21/23**
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