

*As Engrossed: 3/4/91, 3/7/91, 3/14/91*

1 **State of Arkansas**  
2 **78th General Assembly**  
3 **Regular Session, 1991**  
4 **By: *Joint Budget Committee***

# **A Bill**

**SENATE BILL 330**

## **For An Act To Be Entitled**

8 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE VOTER REGISTRATION AND SIGNATURE  
9 IMAGING STUDY COMMITTEE; TO PROVIDE THAT THE COMMITTEE  
10 SHALL CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A  
11 VOTER REGISTRATION AND SIGNATURE IMAGING SYSTEM; TO  
12 APPROPRIATE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$150,000)  
13 FOR CONDUCTING THE STUDY INCLUDING PURCHASING THE  
14 NECESSARY EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE TO ESTABLISH A PILOT  
15 PROGRAM OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND SIGNATURE IMAGING IF THE  
16 COMMITTEE SO RECOMMENDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

17  
18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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20 SECTION 1. *There is hereby created the "Voter Registration and*  
21 *Signature Imaging Study Committee". The committee shall be composed of the*  
22 *following:*

- 23 (a) *A member of the Senate as appointed by the Senate Committee on*  
24 *Committees;*  
25 (b) *A member of the House as appointed by the Speaker;*  
26 (c) *The Secretary of State or his designated representative;*  
27 (d) *The Chairman of the Legislative Communication Study Committee;*  
28 (e) *The Vice-Chairman of the Legislative Communication Study Committee.*  
29 *Members of the committee shall serve without compensation.*

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31 SECTION 2. *The committee shall organize by selecting one (1) of its*  
32 *members to serve as chairman and one (1) member as vice-chairman. The*  
33 *committee may establish rules of procedure for the conduct of committee*  
34 *business but all action of the committee shall be by majority vote of the*  
35 *committee. The committee shall meet on call of the chairman, upon written*

1 request of the majority of members, or at such times as may be provided by  
2 rules of the committee.

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4       SECTION 3. The committee shall conduct a study of the feasibility of  
5 establishing a statewide system for storing voter registration information  
6 including imaging voter signatures, with a current database of registered  
7 voters and voter signatures to be maintained by the voter registrar in each  
8 county and with the current database containing all registered voters in the  
9 state and their signatures to be maintained in a master system in the office  
10 of Secretary of State either through an online system connecting the office of  
11 Secretary of State with the office of voter registrar in each county or by a  
12 system whereby each voter registrar would periodically send the current  
13 information to the Secretary of State on tapes, disks, or other electronic  
14 media.

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16       SECTION 4. If, in order to determine the feasibility of establishing a  
17 statewide voter registration and signature imaging system, the committee  
18 determines there is a need to establish a pilot program, then it shall  
19 determine the county or counties to be included in the pilot program and the  
20 Secretary of State, with the approval of the committee, shall purchase the  
21 necessary equipment for the pilot program.

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23       SECTION 5. There is hereby appropriated, to be payable from the State  
24 General Services Fund Account, to the office of the Secretary of State to be  
25 used with approval of the committee for conducting the study including  
26 purchasing the necessary equipment and software to establish a pilot program  
27 of voter registration and signature imaging, for the biennial period ending  
28 June 30, 1993, the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000).

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30       SECTION 6. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature  
31 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code  
32 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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34       SECTION 7. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to  
35 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
36 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without

1 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
2 act are declared to be severable.

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4 SECTION 8. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
5 hereby repealed.

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7 SECTION 9. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is hereby found and determined by the  
8 Seventy-Eighth General Assembly that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas  
9 prohibits the appropriation of funds for more than a two-year period; that the  
10 effectiveness of this act on July 1, 1991, is essential to the operation of  
11 the committee for which the appropriations in this act are provided, and that  
12 in the event of an extension of the regular session, the delay in the  
13 effective date of this act beyond July 1, 1991, could work irreparable harm  
14 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental  
15 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this act  
16 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and  
17 safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 1991.

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/s/Russ

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