

1 State of Arkansas  
2 91st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2017  
4

As Engrossed: S2/9/17

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 176

5 By: Senator B. King  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 *AN ACT TO PROTECT THE ELDERLY FROM DECEPTIVE*  
9 *CANVASSING PRACTICES; TO PROHIBIT AN ADMINISTRATOR OR*  
10 *EMPLOYEE OF A NURSING HOME FACILITY FROM GATHERING*  
11 *PETITION SIGNATURES FROM VULNERABLE RESIDENTS; AND*  
12 *FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

## Subtitle

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16 *TO PROHIBIT DECEPTIVE CANVASSING*  
17 *PRACTICES; AND TO PROHIBIT AN*  
18 *ADMINISTRATOR OR EMPLOYEE OF A NURSING*  
19 *HOME FACILITY FROM GATHERING PETITION*  
20 *SIGNATURES FROM VULNERABLE RESIDENTS.*

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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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25 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-9-103(d), concerning signing of petition,*  
26 *penalty for falsification, and notice of suspected forgery, is amended to*  
27 *read as follows:*

28 *(d)(1) It is unlawful for an administrator or employee of a nursing*  
29 *home facility or long-term care facility to knowingly:*

30 *(A) Act as a paid or unpaid canvasser, sponsor, or agent*  
31 *of a sponsor of a petition; and*

32 *(B) Obtain or attempt to obtain signatures from the*  
33 *residents of the nursing home facility or long-term care facility that he or*  
34 *she oversees or where he or she is employed.*

35 *(2) A person who is an administrator of a nursing home or long-*  
36 *term care facility who violates subdivision (d)(1) of this section is upon*



1 conviction guilty of a Class D felony.

2 (3) A person who is an employee of a nursing home or long-term  
3 care facility who violated subdivision (d)(1) of this section is upon  
4 conviction guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

5 ~~(d)~~(e) *When the official charged with verifying the*  
6 *signatures has reasonable grounds to believe that one (1) or more signatures*  
7 *on a petition is forged, excluding signatures apparently signed by one (1)*  
8 *spouse for another, the official shall report the suspected forgery and basis*  
9 *for suspecting forgery to:*

10 (1) *The Department of Arkansas State Police, in the case of a*  
11 *statewide petition; or*

12 (2) *The prosecuting attorney of the county, in the case of a*  
13 *local petition.*

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15 /s/B. King  
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