

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 163

5 By: Senator T. Garner
6 By: Representative Wardlaw
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING PETITION
10 REQUIREMENTS TO FORM A NEW POLITICAL PARTY; TO
11 REQUIRE SIGNATURES IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THREE
12 PERCENT (3%) OF THE TOTAL VOTES CAST IN THE MOST
13 RECENT GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION; TO DECLARE AN
14 EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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18 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING PETITION
19 REQUIREMENTS TO FORM A NEW POLITICAL
20 PARTY; TO REQUIRE SIGNATURES OF THREE
21 PERCENT (3%) OF THE TOTAL VOTES CAST IN
22 THE MOST RECENT GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION;
23 AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.
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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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28 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-7-205(a)(2), concerning the signature
29 requirement for a petition to form a new political party, is amended to read
30 as follows:

31 (2) The petition shall contain at the time of filing the
32 signatures of ~~at least ten thousand (10,000) registered voters in the state~~
33 registered voters in an amount that equals or exceeds three percent (3%) of
34 the total votes cast for the Office of Governor in the immediately preceding
35 general election for Governor.
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1 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
2 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the current laws concerning
3 signature requirements for certain petitions are insufficient to reflect the
4 will of the voters of Arkansas; that this act must become effective before
5 the date upon which petitions can be circulated in order to preserve fair
6 access to the elections; and that this act is immediately necessary to ensure
7 voter and candidate rights are observed in the upcoming election. Therefore,
8 an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary
9 for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become
10 effective on:

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

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

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

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19 **APPROVED: 2/18/19**
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