

**Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the Arkansas Constitution.**

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

HJR 1007

4  
5 By: Representatives V. Flowers, F. Allen, Blake, Clowney, K. Ferguson, Fielding, D. Garner, Glover,  
6 Godfrey, M. Hodges, Love, McCullough, Murdock, Nicks, Richardson, Richey, Scott, Walker, D.  
7 Whitaker  
8 By: Senators Elliott, G. Leding, S. Flowers, L. Chesterfield

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION**

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO PROHIBIT  
SLAVERY AND INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE.

**Subtitle**

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION  
TO PROHIBIT SLAVERY AND INVOLUNTARY  
SERVITUDE.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE SENATE, A MAJORITY OF ALL  
MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

That the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of  
the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state  
for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives  
and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election  
adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of  
the State of Arkansas, to wit:

SECTION 1. Intent of amendment.

(a) Arkansas Constitution, Article 2, § 27, permits slavery and  
involuntary servitude as a punishment for crime.

(b) As the Arkansas Constitution is the moral and legal foundation of  
our state, abolishing all forms of slavery in the Arkansas Constitution



1 represents the fundamental values held by the citizens of Arkansas.

2 (c) Because persons of color are overrepresented in the prison system,  
3 continued slave labor is an issue of racial and economic injustice.

4 (d) Arkansas is one of only two (2) states that do not pay inmates  
5 anything for their labor.

6 (e) If a prisoner is working, they should be compensated for that  
7 labor so they can afford the basic necessities of life.

8 (f) The intent of this amendment is to repeal the portion of Arkansas  
9 Constitution, Article 2, § 27, allowing slavery and involuntary servitude as  
10 a punishment for crime to fully abolish slavery in the State of Arkansas and  
11 recognize the moral and economic benefits that will result from ending this  
12 practice.

13  
14 SECTION 2. Arkansas Constitution, Article 2, § 27, is amended to read  
15 as follows:

16 § 27. Slavery – Standing armies – Military subordinate to civil power.  
17 There shall be no slavery in this State, nor involuntary servitude,  
18 ~~except as a punishment for crime.~~ No standing army shall be kept in time of  
19 peace; the military shall, at all times, be in strict subordination to the  
20 civil power; and no soldier shall be quartered in any house, or on any  
21 premises, without the consent of the owner, in time of peace; nor in time of  
22 war, except in a manner prescribed by law.

23  
24 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment shall be effective on and  
25 after January 1, 2021.

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27 SECTION 4. BALLOT TITLE AND POPULAR NAME. When this proposed  
28 amendment is submitted to the electors of this state on the general election  
29 ballot:

30 (1) The title of this Joint Resolution shall be the ballot  
31 title; and

32 (2) The popular name shall be "A Constitutional Amendment to  
33 Prohibit Slavery and Involuntary Servitude".