

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1931

5 By: Representatives Gillam, M. Gray, Ballinger, Sturch
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPROVAL OF BALLOT TITLES AND
9 POPULAR NAMES OF PETITIONS PRIOR TO CIRCULATION; AND
10 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12 CONCERNING THE APPROVAL OF BALLOT TITLES
13 AND POPULAR NAMES OF PETITIONS PRIOR TO
14 CIRCULATION.
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-9-107 is amended to read as follows:

22 7-9-107. Approval of ballot titles and popular names of petitions
23 prior to circulation – Publication.

24 (a) Before any initiative or referendum petition ordering a vote upon
25 any amendment or act shall be circulated for obtaining signatures of
26 petitioners, the sponsors shall submit the original draft to the Attorney
27 General, with a proposed legislative or ballot title and popular name.

28 (b) ~~Within~~ Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section,
29 within ten (10) days, the Attorney General shall approve and certify ~~or shall~~
30 ~~substitute and certify a more suitable and correct~~ the ballot title and
31 popular name submitted for each amendment or act. ~~The ballot title so~~
32 ~~submitted or supplied by the Attorney General shall briefly and concisely~~
33 ~~state the purpose of the proposed measure.~~

34 (c) If, as a result of his or her review of the ballot title and
35 popular name of a proposed initiated act or a proposed amendment to the
36 Arkansas Constitution, the Attorney General determines that the ballot title,



1 or the nature of the issue, is presented in such manner that the ballot title
 2 would be misleading or designed in such manner that a vote "FOR" the issue
 3 would be a vote against the matter or viewpoint that the voter believes
 4 himself or herself casting a vote for, or, conversely, that a vote "AGAINST"
 5 an issue would be a vote for a viewpoint that the voter is against, the
 6 Attorney General ~~may~~ shall reject the entire ballot title, popular name, and
 7 petition and state his or her reasons therefor and instruct the petitioners
 8 to redesign the proposed measure and the ballot title and popular name in a
 9 manner that would not be misleading.

10 (d) If the Attorney General refuses to act or if the sponsors feel
 11 aggrieved at the Attorney General's acts in such premises, the sponsors may,
 12 by petition, apply to the Supreme Court for proper relief.

13 (e) [Repealed.]

14 (f) [Repealed.]

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