

**Hall of the House of Representatives**  
89th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2013  
**Amendment Form**

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**Subtitle of House Bill No. 2017**

TO ALLOW CERTAIN COUNTIES TO ELECT TO HOLD NONPARTISAN ELECTIONS FOR SHERIFF; AND  
TO PROVIDE A PROCEDURE FOR NONPARTISAN ELECTION OF SHERIFFS.

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**Amendment No. 2 to House Bill No. 2017**

Amend House Bill No. 2017 as originally introduced:

Delete the subtitle in its entirety and substitute:

"TO BE KNOWN AS THE NONPARTISAN LAW  
ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2013."

AND

Delete everything after the enacting clause and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 14, Chapter 15, Subchapter 5, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:  
14-15-506. Nonpartisan election of sheriffs in Class 1, 2, 3, or 4 counties.

(a)(1)(A) Except as provided under subdivision (a)(2) of this section, the office of sheriff is a partisan office.

(B) The general election for sheriffs shall be held on the same dates and at the same times and places as provided by law for a general election.

(2)(A) The quorum court of a Class 1, 2, 3 or 4 county may adopt a resolution to hold nonpartisan elections for the office of sheriff.

(B) The resolution shall be adopted no later than January 1 of the year of the next election for the office of sheriff.

(C) The resolution shall remain in effect until repealed by the quorum court.

(D) The quorum court shall not repeal a resolution later than January 1 of the year of the next election for the office of sheriff.

(b)(1)(A) A nonpartisan candidate for sheriff shall file his or her political practices pledge, affidavit of eligibility, and filing fee with the county clerk during a one-week period ending at 12:00 noon on the first day in March of the year in which the election is to be held.

(B) The filing fee for a nonpartisan candidate for sheriff is equal to three percent (3%) of the annual salary of the office for which the candidate is filing and shall be paid to the county clerk to be deposited



into a cash fund in the State Treasury and disbursed by the Department of Finance and Administration for a grant to the Arkansas Sheriffs' Association for grants to Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranches.

(2)(A)(i) A person desiring to have his or her name placed on the ballot as a nonpartisan candidate for sheriff without paying a filing fee may do so by filing a petition with the county clerk signed by at least three percent (3%) of the qualified electors residing within the county for which the candidate seeks office.

(ii) In determining the number of qualified electors in the county under subdivision (b)(2)(A)(i) of this section, the total number of all votes cast in the county for Governor in the immediately preceding general gubernatorial election shall be conclusive of the number of qualified electors residing within the county.

(B) The petition, the political practices pledge, and the affidavit of eligibility shall be filed during a one-week period ending at 12:00 noon thirty-one (31) days before the first day of the party filing period.

(C) The county clerk shall verify the sufficiency of the petition within thirty (30) days of filing.

(D) The sufficiency of a petition filed under this section may be challenged in the same manner as election contests under § 7-5-801 et seq.

(3) Votes for a write-in nonpartisan candidate for sheriff in an election shall not be counted or tabulated unless the candidate or his or her agent files notice in writing of his or her intention to be a write-in candidate for sheriff to the county board of election commissioners and the county clerk as required under § 7-5-205.

(c)(1) If one (1) nonpartisan candidate for sheriff does not receive a majority of the votes cast in the general election, the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes cast for the office to be filled shall be the nominees for the respective offices, to be voted on in a runoff election under § 7-5-106.

(2) If the nonpartisan office of sheriff is unopposed, the single candidate for sheriff shall be printed on the general election ballot as other uncontested candidates, and the votes for sheriff shall be tabulated as in other uncontested county races."

The Amendment was read \_\_\_\_\_  
By: Representative Bell  
JAW/JAW - 03-20-2013 15:38:08  
JAW284

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Chief Clerk