Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 2	State of Arkansas 84th General Assembly	A Bill		
3	Regular Session, 2003		SENATE BILL 270	
4				
5	By: Senator Faris			
6				
7				
8	Fo	r An Act To Be Entitled		
9	AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT THE FEDERAL HELP AMERICA VOTE			
10	ACT; TO REVISE	VARIOUS VOTING PROCEDURES; A	AND FOR	
11	OTHER PROCEDURI	ES.		
12				
13		Subtitle		
14	AN ACT TO IN	MPLEMENT THE FEDERAL HELP		
15	AMERICA VOTI	E ACT.		
16				
17				
18	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL	ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARK	ANSAS:	
19				
20	SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-1-101 is amended to read as follows:			
21	7-1-101. Definitions.			
22	As used in this title, unless	-	-	
23		cor" means the administrative	-	
24	care or residential care faci			
25	writing by a patient of the 1	-	-	
26	deliver the application for a		ain or deliver the	
27	absentee ballot to the county			
28		agent" means a person who is		
29	authorized by an applicant wh	-		
30	polling site due to unforesee	•		
31	from the administrative head			
32	facility to deliver the appli		deliver the ballot	
33	on the day of the election to	•		
34		abulating equipment" means a		
35	to automatically examine and	-		
36	processing machines which can) be used for counting votes	and tabulating	



results but shall not include those voting machines authorized under this 2 title: (4) "Candidate and issue labels" means the cards, paper, 3 4 booklet, pages, or other material containing the names of offices and 5 candidates and statements of measures to be voted on; 6 "Canvassing" means examining and counting the returns of (5) 7 votes cast at a public election to determine authenticity; 8 (6) "Constitutional officers of this state" means the offices of 9 the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, 10 Auditor of State, Treasurer of State, and Commissioner of State Lands; 11 (7) "Counting location" means a location selected by the county 12 board of election commissioners with respect to all elections for the automatic processing or counting or both of votes; 13 14 (8) "Designated bearer" means any person who is identified and 15 authorized by the applicant to obtain from the county clerk or to deliver to 16 the county clerk the applicant's ballot; 17 (9) "Election official" or "election officer" means a person who is a member of the county board of election commissioners or a person who is 18 19 a poll worker, having been designated by a county board of election commissioners to be an election clerk, election judge, or election sheriff; 20 21 (10) "Electronic voting system" means a system of casting votes 22 by use of marking devices and tabulating votes by use of automatic tabulating 23 equipment or data processing equipment but shall not include those voting 24 machines authorized under this title; "Fail-safe voting" means the mechanism established under 25 (11)26 the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 that allows voters who have moved 27 within the same county to vote at their new precinct without having updated 28 their voter registration records; 29 (12)"First-time voter" means any registered voter who has not 30 previously voted in a federal election in the state. 31 (12)(13) "General or special election" means the regular 32 biennial or annual elections for election of United States, state, district, 33 county, township, and municipal officials and the special elections to fill 34 vacancies therein and special elections to approve any measure. The term as used in this act shall not apply to school elections for officials of school 35 36 districts;

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1 (13)(14) "Majority party" means that political party in the 2 State of Arkansas whose candidates were elected to a majority of the 3 constitutional offices of this state in the last-preceding general election; 4 (14)(15) "Marking device" means either an apparatus in which 5 vote cards are inserted and used in connection with a punch apparatus for 6 piercing of vote cards by the voter or any approved device for marking a 7 paper vote sheet with ink or other substances which will enable the votes to 8 be tabulated by means of automatic tabulating equipment; 9 (15)(16) "Minority party" means that political party whose 10 candidates were elected to less than a majority of the constitutional offices 11 of this state in the last-preceding general election or the political party 12 which polled the second-greatest number of votes for the office of Governor in the last-preceding general election if all of the elected constitutional 13 14 officers of this state are from a single political party; 15 (17)(A) "Political party" means any group of voters which at 16 the last-preceding general election polled for its candidate for Governor in 17 the state or nominees for presidential electors at least three percent (3%) of the entire vote cast for the office. 18 19 (B) No group of electors shall assume a name or designation which is so similar in the opinion of the Secretary of State to 20 21 that of an existing political party as to confuse or mislead the voters at an 22 election. 23 (C) When any political party fails to obtain three percent 24 (3%) of the total votes cast at an election for the office of Governor or 25 nominees for presidential electors, it shall cease to be a political party; 26 (17)(18) "Polling site" means a location selected by the county 27 board of election commissioners where votes are cast; 28 (18)(19) "Precinct" means the geographical boundary lines 29 dividing a county, municipality, township, or school district for voting 30 purposes.; 31 (19)(20) "Primary election" means any election held by a 32 political party in the manner provided by law for the purpose of selecting 33 nominees of said political party for certification as candidates for election at any general or special election in this state; 34 35 (20)(21) "Qualified elector" means a person who holds the 36 qualifications of an elector and who is registered pursuant to Arkansas

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1 Constitution, Amendment 51;

2 (21)(22) "Vacancy in election" means the vacancy in an elective 3 office created by death, resignation, or other good and legal cause, arising 4 prior to election to the office at a general or special election but arising 5 subsequent to the certification of the ballot;

6 (22)(23) "Vacancy in nomination" means the circumstances in 7 which the person who received the majority of votes at the preferential 8 primary election or general primary election cannot accept the nomination due 9 to death or notifies the party that he or she will not accept the nomination 10 due to serious illness, moving out of the area from which the person was 11 elected as the party's nominee, or filing for another office preceding the 12 final date for certification of nominations;

13 (23)(24)(A) "Vacancy in office" means the vacancy in an elective 14 office created by death, resignation, or other good and legal cause arising 15 subsequent to election to the office at a general or special election or 16 arising subsequent to taking office and prior to the expiration of the term 17 of office in those circumstances wherein the vacancy must be filled by a 18 special election rather than by appointment.

(B) The phrase "vacancy in office" shall not apply to the
election of a person at a general election to fill an unexpired portion of a
term of office; and

22 (24)(25) "Vote card" means a card upon which the voter casts his
23 votes by the process of punching.

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25 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-5-201(d), concerning voter 26 qualifications, is amended to read as follows:

27 (d)(1) Any person registering to vote by mail <u>and having not</u>
28 previously voted in a federal election shall appear in person to vote the
29 first time he or she casts a ballot.:

30 (A) Present to the election official a current and valid 31 photo identification, or copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, 32 government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name 33 and address of the voter, when appearing to vote in person either early or at 34 the polls on election day; or 35 (B) Submit with the ballot a copy of a current and valid

36 photo identification or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,

1 government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name 2 and address of the voter, when voting by mail. 3 (2) The provision of subdivision (d)(1) of this section does not 4 include: 5 (A) Persons whose applications are transmitted by state or 6 federal voter registration agencies; 7 (B) Persons who are temporarily living in a particular 8 place because of a temporary work-related assignment or duty post as a result 9 of their performing duties in connection with their status as military 10 personnel or students; 11 (C) Persons who are covered by the Uniformed and Overseas 12 Citizens Absentee Voting Act; (D) Persons covered by the Voting Accessibility for the 13 14 Elderly and Handicapped Act; or 15 (E) Persons who are entitled to vote otherwise than in 16 person under any other federal law-; 17 (F) Persons who register to vote by mail and submit as 18 part of his or her registration any of the identification documents listed in 19 subdivision (d)(l); or 20 (G) Persons who register to vote by mail, and submit with the registration either a driver's license number or at least the last four 21 22 (4) digits of the individual's social security number, and with respect to 23 whom a state or local election official matches the license number or social 24 security number with an existing state identification record bearing the same number, name, and date of birth as provided in the registration. 25 26 27 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-5-202 is amended to read as follows: 28 § 7-5-202. Public notice of elections. (a) It shall be the duty of the county board of election commissioners 29 30 at least twenty (20) days before each preferential primary and general 31 election and ten (10) days before the holding of each general primary, 32 general runoff, or special election to give public notice in a newspaper of 33 general circulation in the county of the time and date of the election, the 34 hours of voting on election day, polling sites for holding the elections in the county, and the candidates and offices to be elected at that time. 35 36 (b) At least five (5) days prior to a preferential primary, general

1 primary, general election, general runoff, or special election, a copy of the 2 public notice may be posted at each polling site fixed for holding the 3 election and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the 4 county. (c) On the day of any election, the following information shall be 5 6 posted at each polling site and remain posted continuously therein until the 7 polls close: 8 (1) The public notice required in subsection (a) of this 9 section; 10 (2) A sample version of the ballot or ballots that will be used 11 for that election; 12 (3) Instructions on how to vote, including how to cast a provisi<u>onal ballot;</u> 13 14 (4) General information on voting rights under applicable 15 federal and state laws, including information on the right of an individual 16 to cast a provisional ballot and instructions on how to contact the 17 appropriate officials if these rights are alleged to have been violated; and 18 (5) General information on federal and state laws regarding prohibitions on acts of fraud and misrepresentation. 19 20 (d) The Secretary of State shall provide to each county board of 21 election commissioners the information to be posted at each polling site 22 according to § 7-5-202(b)(4) and (5). 23 24 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 7-5-305(a)(8), concerning requirements for 25 voting, is amended to read as follows: 26 (8)(A) Request the voter for purposes of identification to 27 provide a valid driver's license, photo identification card issued by a 28 governmental agency, voter card, social security card, birth certificate, 29 United States passport, employee identification card issued by a governmental 30 agency containing a photograph, employee identification card issued in the 31 normal course of business of the employer, student identification card, 32 Arkansas hunting license, or United States military identification card. a 33 current and valid photo identification, or a copy of a current utility bill, 34 bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter. 35 36 (B)(i) If a voter is unable to provide this

1 identification, the election official shall indicate on the precinct voter 2 registration list that the voter did not provide identification. 3 (ii) A first time voter who registers by mail 4 without providing identification when registering, and desires to vote in 5 person, but who does not meet the identification requirements of subdivision 6 (a)(8)(A) may cast a provisional ballot. 7 (iii) Following each election, the county board 8 of election commissioners may review the precinct voter registration lists 9 and may provide the information of the voters not providing identification at 10 the polls to the prosecuting attorney. 11 (iii)(iv) The prosecuting attorney may investigate 12 possible voter fraud. 13 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 7-5-306(b), concerning precinct voter 14 15 registration list, is amended to read as follows: 16 (b) If the voter is not listed on the precinct voter registration list 17 and the election official is unable to verify the voter's registration with 18 the county clerk and the voter contends that he or she is a registered voter 19 in the precinct in which he or she desires to vote and that he or she is 20 eligible to vote, then the voter may vote a challenged ballot which shall 21 only be counted upon verification of the voter's registration status by the 22 county board of election commissioners prior to certification of election. 23 shall be permitted to cast a provisional ballot as follows: 24 (1) An election official at the polling place shall notify the individual that the individual may cast a provisional ballot in that 25 26 ele<u>ction;</u> 27 (2) The individual shall be permitted to cast a provisional 28 ballot at that polling place upon the execution of a written affirmation by the individual before an election official at the polling place stating that 29 30 the individual is: 31 (A) A registered voter in the jurisdiction in which the 32 individual desires to vote; and 33 (B) Eligible to vote in that election; 34 (3) The provisional ballot shall only be counted upon 35 verification of the voter's registration status by the county board of election commissioners before certification of the election; and 36

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1 (4)(1) Whenever a person casts a provisional ballot, the 2 election official shall provide the voter written information that states that the individual who casts a provisional ballot will be able to ascertain 3 4 whether the vote was counted, by accessing a toll free telephone number, 5 internet website, or other free access system established by the Secretary of 6 State for that purpose. 7 (2) Access to information about an individual provisional ballot 8 shall be restricted to the individual who cast the ballot. 9 10 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 7-5-312(b) and (c), concerning challenging 11 a voter's ballot, are amended to read as follows: 12 (b)(1) When the ballot of any voter is thus challenged, it shall be treated as a provisional ballot, and it shall be the duty of the election 13 14 officials in the election precinct to make and retain a list of the names of 15 all persons so challenged, and the following procedure shall be followed: 16 (A) The voter shall separate his or her marked ballot and 17 ballot stub; 18 (B) The voter shall place the challenged ballot in a 19 single challenged provisional ballot envelope and seal the envelope; and 20 (C) The voter shall place the ballot stub and the sealed 21 challenged provisional ballot envelope and challenge form in a challenged 22 provisional voter envelope; and 23 (2) The All provisional ballots of all challenged persons shall 24 be preserved, secured, and separated from the remaining ballots to the end 25 that the right of any person to vote may be determined later by the county 26 board of election commissioners or the court in which an election contest may 27 thereafter be filed. 28 (c)(1) The county board shall, prior to certification of the results 29 of the election, determine whether the challenged provisional ballots are 30 valid. 31 (2) If, upon examination of any challenged provisional ballots, 32 the county board suspects that a violation of the election laws has occurred, 33 the county board may refer the matter to the prosecuting attorney. 34 35 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 7-5-315(7)(B)(ii) is amended to add an 36 additional subdivision to read as follows:

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1	(c) Any person who votes in an election as a		
2	result of a federal or state court order or any other order extending the		
3	time established for closing the polls may only vote in that election by		
4	casting a provisional ballot according to the procedure set out in § 7-5-		
5	306(b), and the ballot shall be separated and held apart from other		
6	provisional ballots cast by those not affected by the order.		
7			
8	SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 7-5-403(c), concerning applications for		
9	ballots, is amended to read as follows:		
10	(c) Citizens of the United States temporarily residing outside the		
11	territorial limits of the United States and the District of Columbia, and		
12	their spouses and dependents when residing with or accompanying them, may		
13	request the absentee ballot for any one (1) or more elections during any one		
14	(1) calendar year through the next two (2) regularly scheduled general		
15	elections for federal office, including any runoff elections which may occur		
16	as a result of the outcome of the general elections, by submitting only one		
17	(1) application during that calendar year period of time in the manner		
18	prescribed by subsection (a) of this section.		
19			
20	SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 7-5-406(a), concerning overseas voters, is		
21	amended to read as follows:		
22	(a) Any qualified elector of this state in any of the following		
23	categories who is absent from the place of his or her voting residence may		
24	make a request for an absentee ballot by submission of a federal postal card		
25	application as provided for in the Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act of		
26	1975 Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, and may vote by		
27	absentee ballot, without registering, in any primary, special, or general		
28	election held in his or her election precinct if he or she is otherwise		
29	eligible to vote in that election:		
30	(1) Members of the uniformed services of the United States while		
31	in active service and their spouses and dependents;		
32	(2) Members of the merchant marine of the United States and		
33	their spouses and dependents; and		
34	(3) Citizens of the United States temporarily residing outside		
35	the territorial limits of the United States and the District of Columbia and		
36	their spouses and dependents when residing with or accompanying them.		

1 2 SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 7-5-409(b), concerning materials furnished 3 to qualified voters, is amended to read as follows: 4 (b) If the applicant is registered or is otherwise eligible to vote 5 absentee, the county clerk shall deliver or mail to the applicant or deliver 6 pursuant to subsections (d) - (f) of this section to the person who delivers 7 the application to the office of the county clerk pursuant to § 7-5-403 the 8 following materials: 9 (1) An official ballot for each election named in the 10 application; 11 Instructions for voting and returning the ballot to the (2) 12 county clerk; (3) A sealable envelope on which there shall be written or 13 14 printed the words: "Ballot Only"; 15 (4) A sealable envelope upon which shall be printed or written 16 the words: "Return Envelope", the address of the county clerk, the precinct 17 of the voter, and the words: "ABSENTEE BALLOT,,, ELECTION"; 18 19 (5) A blank voter statement in the following form: 20 "I reside at the address indicated on my application. 21 I have enclosed my ballot stub in the Return Enveloper: I have enclosed my 22 marked ballot in the Ballot Only envelope, which I will place in the Return 23 Envelope. 24 (A) My ballot stub; 25 (B) My completed voter statement; 26 (C) A copy of a current and valid photo identification 27 card, or a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, 28 or other government document that shows my name and address, if I registered 29 to vote for the first time by mail; and 30 (D) The ballot only envelope containing my marked ballot. 31 I will not vote again in this election. 32 THE INFORMATION I HAVE PROVIDED IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE UNDER 33 PENALTY OF PERJURY. IF I HAVE PROVIDED FALSE INFORMATION, I MAY BE SUBJECT TO A FINE OF UP TO TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000) OR IMPRISONMENT FOR UP TO TEN 34 (10) YEARS, OR BOTH, UNDER FEDERAL OR STATE LAWS. 35 36

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1 signature of voter 2 3 printed name of voter 4 5 address of voter 6 7 date of birth of voter 8 signature of designated bearer, relative or authorized agent 9 10 11 address of designated bearer, relative or authorized agent."; and 12 (6) An authorized agent authorization form, which may be printed 13 on the back of the voter statement, as follows: "AGENT AUTHORIZATION FORM 14 15 If applicable, fill out and sign this form and place it in the Return 16 Envelope 17 I hereby authorize (insert his or her name) as my authorized agent, to 18 deliver this ballot as I am medically unable to vote on election day. An 19 affidavit verifying my medical status as unable to deliver the application or to vote on the day of the election is attached or has been provided with my 20 21 application. 22 23 Signature of voter 24 25 printed name of voter 26 date of birth of voter" 27 2.8 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 7-5-412 is amended to read as follows: 29 30 § 7-5-412. Marking and return of ballots - Delivery of mailed ballots. 31 (a) Upon receiving the blank ballot, statement, and envelopes, whether 32 in the office of the county clerk or elsewhere, the voter shall mark the 33 ballot, tear off the lower ballot stub end, and place the ballot in the 34 provided envelope. He or she shall then seal the envelope containing the 35 ballot and place it with his executed statement and the ballot stub in the other provided outer envelope. with the following: 36

(1) The executed voter statement; (2) The ballot stub; and (3) A copy of a current and valid photo identification, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter, for first time voters who registered by mail. However, this requirement does not apply if: (A) The voter registered to vote by mail and provided the identification at that time; or (B) The first time voter registered to vote by mail and submitted his or her driver's license number or at least the last four (4) digits of his or her social security number at the time, and this information matches the information in an existing state identification record bearing the same number, name, and date of birth as provided in the registration. (b) The envelope containing ballot, ballot stub, identification, if applicable, and voter's statement must be received in the office of the county clerk not later than 7:30 p.m. on the day of the election. (c) An individual who desires to cast an absentee ballot but who does not meet the identification requirements of subdivision (a)(3) may cast a ballot by mail and the ballot shall be considered as a provisional ballot. (c)(d) Ballots by mail shall be counted if received no later than the time the polls close on election day. Ballots received by mail on election day, and before the polls close, shall be delivered promptly by the county clerk to the election officials designated to canvass and count absentee ballots. SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 7-5-416(b), concerning counting absentee ballots, is amended to read as follows: (b)(1) The opening, counting, and canvassing shall be conducted as follows: (A) One (1) of the election officials shall open outer absentee ballot envelopes one (1) by one (1), and, as soon as he or she opens one (1), he or she shall read aloud from the statement in the envelope the name of the voter and the voting precinct in which the voter claims to be a legal voter;

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(B) As each outer envelope is opened and the name of the

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1 voter is read, the election officials for the absentee box shall list in 2 duplicate the name and voting precinct of the voter and shall write on the 3 stub end of the ballot taken from the outer envelope the number of the voter 4 taken from this list of voters;

5 (C) After the election official reads aloud from the 6 statement, the election officials shall compare the name, address, date of 7 birth, and signature of the voter's absentee application and with the voter's 8 statement and, for first time voters who registered by mail, the voter's 9 identification document, unless the voter previously provided identification 10 at the time of mailing the voter registration application. If the application 11 and the voter's statement do not compare as to name, address, date of birth, 12 and signature, or if the first time voter failed to provide the required identification with the ballot or at the time of mailing the voter 13 registration application, the absentee application, absentee ballot envelope, 14 15 and voter's statement shall be placed in an envelope marked "challenged" 16 "provisional". The election official shall record the reason for the 17 challenge on the envelope, and it shall be referred to the board. The board 18 shall determine whether the voter is qualified and whether or not the vote 19 shall be counted;

(D) If no challenge is made, and if the statement is in proper form, the election official shall, without opening the inner envelope containing the ballot, remove the inner envelope and place it in the ballot box without marking it in any way.; Proper form shall include the voter's signature;

25 The ballot stub ends shall be placed in a separate (E) 26 ballot box designated for them and retained as are other ballot stub ends; 27 (F)(i) After all of the outer envelopes have been opened 28 and a list has been made in duplicate of the name and voting precinct of the 29 voters, as required in this section, the election officials of the absentee 30 box shall preserve all the statements of voters and the voters' identification documents and deliver them to the county clerk, who shall file 31 32 and keep them for the same length of time after the election as is required 33 for retention of other ballots, and the. 34 (ii) The voter statements shall be made available

35 for public inspection during regular business hours;.

36 <u>(iii) The voters' identification documents shall not</u>

1 be subject to public inspection except as part of a judicial proceeding to 2 contest the election; 3 (G) When all of the inner envelopes containing the ballots 4 have been placed in the ballot box and the ballot stub ends have been deposited in a separate box, the ballot box shall be shaken thoroughly to mix 5 6 the ballots; and 7 (H) The ballot box shall be opened and the ballots 8 canvassed and counted.; and 9 (2) No election results shall be printed or released prior to 10 the closing of the polls. 11 12 SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 7-5-707 is amended to read as follows: § 7-5-707. Vote certification - Report. 13 14 (a)(1) At the time that the county board of election commissioners 15 certifies the vote to the Secretary of State, the county board shall report 16 to the State Board of Election Commissioners the total number of: 17 (A) The total number of ballots cast; (1)(B) Ballots The total number of ballots printed and 18 19 delivered to the polls; 20 (2)(C) Ghallenged The total number of provisional ballots 21 that were disqualified; 22 (3)(D) Spoiled The total number of spoiled ballots; and 23 (4)(E) Unused The total number of unused ballots, and 24 (F)(1) The name of the provisional voter for each 25 provisional ballot cast, whether the vote was counted and if the vote was not 26 counted. 27 (2) Information in subdivision (a)(1)(F) shall not be disclosed 28 to the public, but shall be available to the voter who cast the provisional ballot according to § 7-5-306(b)(4). 29 30 (b) Within thirty (30) calendar days after any election, the county 31 board shall report to the state board the number of over-votes and under-32 votes cast in the election. 33 (c)(1) The county board of election commissioners shall transmit the 34 certified results for each polling place to the county clerk, who shall 35 immediately transmit the results to the Secretary of State through the internet website interface provided by the Secretary of State for all state 36

1	and federal elections.
2	(2) The county board of election commissioners shall transmit
3	the information required according to subsection (a) of this section to the
4	county clerk who shall enter and transmit it to the State Board of Election
5	Commissioners through the Secretary of State internet website interface.
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