

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 State of Arkansas  
2 86th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2007

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2353

4  
5 By: Representatives Greenberg, E. Brown  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT CONCERNING PETITION REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW  
10 POLITICAL PARTIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

### Subtitle

12  
13 AN ACT CONCERNING PETITION REQUIREMENTS  
14 FOR NEW POLITICAL PARTIES.  
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-7-205 is amended to read as follows:  
20 7-7-205. Petition requirements for new political parties.

21 (a)(1) A group desiring to form a new political party shall do so by  
22 filing a petition with the Secretary of State.

23 (2) The petition shall contain at the time of filing the  
24 signatures of qualified electors of this state equal in number to at least  
25 ~~three percent (3%)~~ two percent (2%) of the total number of votes cast for the  
26 office of Governor or nominees for presidential electors, whichever is less,  
27 at the last preceding election.

28 (3) The Secretary of State shall not accept for filing any new  
29 party petition that is not prima facie sufficient at the time of filing.

30 (4) The petitions ~~shall~~ may be circulated during ~~the period~~  
31 ~~beginning~~ any one hundred fifty (150) ~~days~~ day period ~~prior to the deadline~~  
32 ~~for filing the petitions with the Secretary of State.~~

33 (b) The petition shall declare the intent of organizing a political  
34 party, the name of which shall be stated in the declaration, and of  
35 participating in the next general election. No political party or group shall  
36 assume a name or designation which is so familiar, in the opinion of the



1 Secretary of State, as to confuse or mislead the voters at an election.

2 (c) The petition shall contain the form of verification as set forth  
 3 in § 7-9-109.

4 (d) The Secretary of State shall determine the sufficiency of the  
 5 signatures ~~submitted within~~ expeditiously, and in no event later than thirty  
 6 (30) days ~~of~~ after filing.

7 (e) If the petition is determined to be insufficient, the Secretary of  
 8 State shall forthwith notify the sponsors in writing, through their  
 9 designated agent, and shall set forth ~~his~~ the reasons for so finding. ~~When~~  
 10 ~~the notice is delivered, the sponsors shall have an additional fifteen (15)~~  
 11 ~~days in which to do any or all of the following:~~

12 ~~(1) Solicit and obtain additional signatures;~~

13 ~~(2) Submit proof to show that the rejected signatures, or some~~  
 14 ~~of them, are good and should be counted; or~~

15 ~~(3) Make the petition more definite and certain.~~

16 ~~(f) Any amendments and corrections shall not materially change the~~  
 17 ~~purpose and effect of the petition. No changes shall be made in the petition,~~  
 18 ~~except to correct apparent typographical errors or omissions.~~

19 ~~(g)~~(f)(1) Upon certification of sufficiency by the Secretary of State,  
 20 a new political party shall be declared by the Secretary of State.

21 (2) A new political party formed by the petition process may  
 22 nominate candidates by convention for the first election after certification.

23 (3) Nominated candidates shall file a political practice pledge  
 24 with the Secretary of State or county clerk, as the case may be, no later  
 25 than ~~sixty (60)~~ sixty-five (65) days prior to the general election.

26 (4) If the new party maintains party status by obtaining three  
 27 percent (3%) of the total vote cast for the office of Governor or nominees  
 28 for presidential electors at the first election after certification, the new  
 29 political party shall nominate candidates in the party primary as set forth  
 30 in § 7-7-101 et seq.

31 ~~(h)~~(g) Any challenges to the certification of the Secretary of State  
 32 shall be filed with the Pulaski County Circuit Court.

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