

1 State of Arkansas  
2 88th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2011

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1827

4  
5 By: Representatives Hammer, Branscum, Clemmer, Sanders, Slinkard, G. Smith, Stubblefield  
6 By: Senator J. Hutchinson  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

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

## Subtitle

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13 CONCERNING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW  
14 POLITICAL PARTIES.  
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-7-102 is amended to read as follows:

21 7-7-102. Party nominees certified at primary election.

22 (a) ~~Nominees~~ Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section,  
23 nominees of any political party for United States Senate, United States House  
24 of Representatives, or state, district, county, township, or applicable  
25 municipal office to be voted upon at a general election shall be certified as  
26 having received a majority of the votes cast for the office, or as an  
27 unopposed candidate, at a primary election held by the political party in the  
28 manner provided by law.

29 (b) A new political party established by petition shall nominate any  
30 candidate by convention for the first general election after certification of  
31 a sufficient petition.  
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33 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-7-205 is amended to read as follows:

34 7-7-205. Petition requirements for new political parties.

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



(2) The petition shall contain at the time of filing the signatures of at least ten thousand (10,000) registered voters in the state.

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

~~(4)(A) The petitions shall be circulated during any ninety-day period~~ No signature shall be counted unless the date of the signature appears on the petition.

(B) No signature that is dated more than ninety (90) days before the date the petition is submitted shall be counted.

~~(b)(5)(A) The petition shall declare the intent of organizing a political party, the name of which shall be stated in the declaration, and of participating in the next general election.~~

(B) No political party or group shall assume a name or designation that is so familiar, in the opinion of the Secretary of State, as to confuse or mislead the voters at an election.

(6) A new political party that wishes to select nominees for the next general election shall file a sufficient petition no later than forty-five (45) days before the preferential primary election.

~~(e)(b)(1)~~ The Secretary of State shall determine the sufficiency of the signatures submitted within thirty (30) days of filing.

~~(d)(2)~~ If the petition is determined to be insufficient, the Secretary of State shall forthwith notify the sponsors in writing, through their designated agent, and shall set forth his or her reasons for so finding.

~~(e)(c)(1)~~ Upon certification of sufficiency of the petition by the Secretary of State, a new political party shall be declared by the Secretary of State.

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

~~(3) Nominated candidates~~ A candidate nominated by convention shall file a political ~~practice~~ practices pledge with the Secretary of State or county clerk, as the case may be, no later than ~~sixty (60) days prior to the general election~~ noon of the date of the preferential primary election.

(4) If the new party maintains party status by obtaining three percent (3%) of the total vote cast for the office of Governor or nominees

1 for presidential electors at the first general election after certification,  
2 the new political party shall nominate candidates in the party primary as set  
3 forth in § 7-7-101 et seq.

4 ~~(f)~~(5) Any challenges to the certification of the sufficiency of  
5 the petition by the Secretary of State shall be filed with the Pulaski County  
6 Circuit Court.