1	A	
2	2 89th General Assembly A Bill	
3	3 Regular Session, 2013 HC	OUSE BILL 1855
4	4	
5	5 By: Representatives Shepherd, Steel	
6	6 By: Senator Irvin	
7	7	
8	8 For An Act To Be Entitled	
9	9 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE OFFICE OF PROSECUTING	
10	0 ATTORNEY AS A NONPARTISAN OFFICE; TO AMEND THE LAW	
11	1 CONCERNING THE DATES OF CERTAIN ELECTIONS; AND FOR	
12	2 OTHER PURPOSES.	
13	3	
14	4	
15	5 Subtitle	
16	6 TO ESTABLISH THE OFFICE OF PROSECUTING	
17	7 ATTORNEY AS A NONPARTISAN OFFICE; AND TO	
18	8 AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE DATES OF	
19	9 CERTAIN ELECTIONS.	
20	0	
21	1	
22	2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:	
23	3	
24	4 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-1-101, concerning definition:	s, is amended
25	5 to add three new subdivisions to read as follows:	
26	6 (35)(A) "Nonpartisan candidate" means a candidate fo	or the office
27	7 of Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Court of Appeals,	<u>circuit</u>
28	8 judge, district judge, or prosecuting attorney.	
29	9 (B) "Nonpartisan candidate" does not include a	<u>a candidate</u>
30	0 <u>for nonpartisan municipal office;</u>	
31	1 (36)(A) "Nonpartisan election" means a general, spec	cial, or
32	2 <u>runoff election for the office of Justice of the Supreme Court</u> ,	Judge of the
33	3 <u>Court of Appeals, circuit judge, district judge, or prosecuting</u>	attorney.
34	(B) "Nonpartisan election" does not include a	general,
35	5 special, or runoff election for a nonpartisan municipal office;	and
36	6 (37)(A) "Nonpartisan office" means the office of Jus	stice of the



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1	upreme Court, Judge of the Court of Appeals, circuit judge, district judge,	
2	or prosecuting attorney.	
3	(B) "Nonpartisan office" does not include a nonpartisan	
4	municipal office.	
5		
6	SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-4-101(f)(11), concerning the authority of	
7	the State Board of Election Commissioners, is amended to read as follows:	
8	(11) Administer reimbursement of election expenses to counties	
9	in accordance with § 7-7-201(a) for primary elections, statewide special	
10	elections, and nonpartisan judicial general elections.	
11		
12	SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-5-102 is amended to read as follows:	
13	7-5-102. Time of general election.	
14	On the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November in every even-	
15	numbered year, there shall be held an election in each precinct and ward in	
16	this state for the election of all :	
17	(1) All elective state, county, and township officers whose term	
18	of office is fixed at two (2) years by the Arkansas Constitution or the	
19	General Assembly; for state	
20	(2) State senators in their respective districts when the terms	
21	for which the state senators have been elected expire before the next general	
22	election; for Representatives in the Congress of the	
23	(3) Members of the United States House of Representatives for	
24	each congressional district in this state; <u>and</u> for	
25	(4) United States Senators when the term of office of any United	
26	States Senator expires before the next general election; and for prosecuting	
27	attorney in this state.	
28		
29	SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 7-5-207(d), concerning names printed on	
30	ballots, is amended to read as follows:	
31	(d)(1) Beside or adjacent to Adjacent to the name of each candidate in	
32	the general election shall be:	
33	(A) His or her party designation; or	
34	(B) The term "INDEPENDENT" if he or she represents no	
35	officially recognized party.	
36	(2) Subdivision (d)(1) of this section shall <u>does</u> not apply to	

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1	a:
2	(A) Nonpartisan judicial election; or
3	(B) Nonpartisan municipal election.
4	
5	SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 7-5-406(c)(1), concerning preparation of
6	special absentee ballots for members of uniformed services and other citizens
7	outside the United States, is amended to read as follows:
8	(c)(l) (A) Except as provided in subdivision (c)(l)(B) of this section,
9	for For the qualified electors in the categories named in subsection (a) of
10	this section who are temporarily outside the territorial limits of the United
11	States, the county board of election commissioners shall prepare a special
12	absentee ballot for each preferential primary and, general election, and
13	nonpartisan election to be sent to the voter in addition to the regular
14	absentee ballot.
15	(B) The county board of election commissioners shall not
16	prepare a special absentee ballot for a nonpartisan judicial election.
17	
18	SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 7-5-407(a), concerning the preparation and
19	delivery of absentee ballots, is amended to read as follows:
20	(a)(1) The county board of election commissioners shall prepare
21	official absentee ballots and deliver them to the county clerk for mailing to
22	all qualified applicants as soon as practicable but in any event not later
23	than forty-seven (47) days before a preferential primary, general election,
24	school election, nonpartisan judicial general election, nonpartisan judicial
25	runoff election, or any special election.
26	
27	SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 7-6-102 is amended to read as follows:
28	7-6-102. Political practices pledge — Penalty for falsification.
29	(a)(1) Candidates for political party nominations for state or
30	district offices shall file with the Secretary of State and candidates for
31	county, municipal, or township offices shall file with the county clerk of
32	the county during the filing period set out in § $7-7-203$ for the preferential
33	primary election a pledge in writing stating that they are familiar with the
34	requirements of §§ 7-1-103, 7-1-104, 7-3-108, 7-6-101, 7-6-103, 7-6-104, and
35	this section and will comply in good faith with their terms.
36	(2) Persons seeking nomination as independent candidates and

1 school district candidates An independent candidate or school district

2 <u>candidate</u> shall file the political practices pledge at the time of filing the 3 petition for nomination.

4 (3) Independent candidates for municipal office shall file the 5 political practices pledge with the county clerk at the time of filing the 6 petition for nomination.

7 (4) Persons who wish to be write-in candidates Write-in
8 candidates shall file the political practices pledge at the time of filing
9 the notice to be a write-in candidate.

10 (5) Nonpartisan judicial candidates <u>A nonpartisan candidate</u>
11 paying filing fees in accordance with § 7-10-103(b) shall file the political
12 practices pledge at the time of filing for office.

13 (6) Nonpartisan judicial candidates <u>A nonpartisan candidate</u>
14 filing by petition in accordance with <u>according to</u> § 7-10-103(c) shall file
15 the political practices pledge at the time of filing the petition.

(b) All political practices pledge forms for state or district offices
and county, municipal, or township offices shall be required to contain the
following additional pledge:

19 "I hereby certify that I have never been convicted of a felony in Arkansas or 20 in any other jurisdiction outside of Arkansas."

(c) Any person who has been convicted of a felony and signs the pledge stating that he or she has not been convicted of a felony shall be guilty of a Class D felony.

(d) For purposes of this section, a person shall be qualified to be a candidate for a state, district, county, municipal, and township office and may certify that he or she has never been convicted of a felony if his or her record was expunged in accordance with §§ 16-93-301 - 16-93-303, or a similar expunction statute in another state, provided, <u>if</u> the candidate presents a certificate of expunction from the court that convicted the prospective candidate.

31 (e)(1) The name of a candidate who fails to sign and file the pledge 32 shall not appear on the ballot.

(2)(A) However, within Within five (5) days from which of the
<u>date</u> the pledge is required to be filed, the Secretary of State or the county
clerk shall notify by certified mail that requires a return receipt signed by
the candidate those candidates who have failed to file a signed political

1 practice pledge. The notice shall and include a copy of the written pledge 2 required by this section. 3 (B) Failure of If within twenty (20) days of receipt or 4 refusal of this notice the state or district candidate fails to file a signed 5 political practices pledge with the Secretary of State or of, or if the 6 county, municipal, or township candidate fails to file a signed political 7 practice pledge with the county clerk within twenty (20) days of receipt or 8 refusal of this notice shall prevent, the candidate's name from appearing 9 shall not appear on the ballot. 10 11 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 7-6-203(h)(3)(B), concerning disposition of 12 campaign contributions, is amended to read as follows: 13 (B) For an unopposed candidates for nonpartisan judicial 14 office candidate, the affidavit may be filed after the deadlines have passed 15 to declare as a filing fee candidate, petition candidate, or write-in 16 candidate under § 7-10-103. 17 18 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 7-7-306 is amended to read as follows: 19 7-7-306. Partisan and nonpartisan judicial general election ballots. 20 (a) At each party primary and nonpartisan judicial general election, 21 each county board of election commissioners shall furnish separate ballots a 22 separate ballot for each political party containing: 23 (1) The names of persons seeking offices name of each person 24 seeking an office to be voted on as a nominee or candidate of that political 25 party; 26 The names of all qualified candidates name of each candidate (2) 27 for the general election to a nonpartisan judicial offices office under § 7-28 10-101; and 29 (3) All measures and questions, if any, to be decided by the 30 voters. 31 The county board of election commissioners shall also furnish a (b) separate nonpartisan ballot containing the names of all qualified candidates 32 33 for the general election to nonpartisan judicial offices and all measures, if 34 any, to be decided by the voters. 35 36 SECTION 10. The name of Arkansas Code Title 7, Chapter 10, is changed

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1 from "Nonpartisan Election of Judges" to "Nonpartisan Elections". The 2 Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall make all changes in the Arkansas Code 3 necessary to implement this section. 4 5 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 7-10-101 is repealed: 6 7-10-101. Definitions. 7 For the purposes of this chapter: 8 (1) "Nonpartisan judicial office" means the offices of Justice 9 of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Court of Appeals, eircuit judge, and 10 district judge; and 11 (2) "Political party" has the same meaning as provided in § 7-1-12 101. 13 14 SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 7-10-102 is amended to read as follows: 15 7-10-102. Nonpartisan election of judges and, justices, and prosecuting 16 attorneys. 17 The offices of Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Court of (a) 18 Appeals, circuit judge, and district judge, and prosecuting attorney are 19 declared to be nonpartisan offices. 20 (b)(1) The general elections for nonpartisan judicial offices shall be 21 held on the same dates date and at the same times and places as provided by 22 law for preferential primary elections. 23 (2)(A) The names of candidates for nonpartisan judicial offices 24 candidates shall be included: 25 (i) Included on the ballots of the political 26 parties; and shall be designated 27 (ii) Designated as nonpartisan judicial candidates. 28 However, separate 29 (B) Separate ballots containing the names of nonpartisan 30 judicial candidates shall be prepared: 31 (i) Prepared; and shall be made 32 (ii) Made available to voters requesting the same a 33 separate ballot. 34 (3) No voter shall A voter shall not be required to vote in a political party's preferential primary in order to be able to vote in a 35 36 nonpartisan judicial elections election.

1 (c)(1) A person shall not be elected to a nonpartisan judicial office 2 without receiving the office of Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the 3 Court of Appeals, circuit judge, or district judge unless the person receives 4 a majority of the votes cast at the election for the office. 5 (2) In any a nonpartisan judicial election in which no person 6 receives a majority of the votes cast, the two (2) candidates receiving the 7 highest and next highest number of votes shall be certified to a runoff 8 election, which shall be held on the same date and at the same times and 9 places as the November general election. 10 (3)(A) The names of the candidates in a nonpartisan judicial 11 runoff election shall be placed on the same ballots as used for the November 12 general elections. (d) A qualified elector shall not be denied his or her constitutional 13 14 right to cast a ballot at any election in this state, including without 15 limitation general and runoff elections for nonpartisan offices. 16 17 SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 7-10-103 is amended to read as follows: 18 7-10-103. Filing as a candidate - Judicial Filing Fee Fund. 19 (a) A candidate for a nonpartisan judicial office may pay under this 20 chapter shall: 21 (1) Pay a filing fee as provided for in this chapter, file; 22 (2) File a petition in the manner provided for in this chapter, 23 or file; or 24 (3) File as a write-in candidate in the manner as provided for 25 in this chapter. 26 (b)(1) The State Board of Election Commissioners shall establish 27 reasonable filing fees for nonpartisan judicial offices. 28 (2)(A)(i) The filing fee A candidate for the offices office of 29 Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Court of Appeals, and circuit 30 judge, or prosecuting attorney who chooses to pay by filing fee shall be paid pay the filing fee to the Secretary of State at the same time that when the 31 32 candidate files his or her political practices pledge. 33 (ii) A candidate for the office of district judge 34 who chooses to file by paying a filing fee shall pay the filing fee to the 35 county clerk at the same time that when the candidate files his or her political practices pledge. 36

1 (B) The period for paying filing fees and filing political 2 practice pledges shall be the same as the party filing period under § 7-7-3 203. 4 There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, (3)(A) 5 the Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a fund to be 6 known as the "Judicial Filing Fee Fund". 7 (B) The filing fees collected for the offices of Justice 8 of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Court of Appeals, circuit judge, and 9 district judge shall be remitted to the Treasurer of State for deposit into the fund Nonpartisan Filing Fee Fund under § 19-5-1225 for covering the cost 10 11 of election expenses of the state board State Board of Election 12 Commissioners. 13 (B)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (b)(3)(B)(ii) of 14 this section, the filing fees collected for the office of prosecuting 15 attorney shall be remitted to the Treasurer of State for deposit into the 16 Nonpartisan Filing Fee Fund under § 19-5-1225. 17 (ii) The first one hundred thousand dollars 18 (\$100,000) collected annually from filing fees for the office of prosecuting 19 attorney shall be remitted to the Treasurer of State for deposit into the 20 Trial Court Administrative Assistant Fund under § 19-5-1241. 21 (c)(l)(A)(i) Any A person desiring to may have his or her name placed 22 on the ballot for a nonpartisan judicial office without paying a filing fee 23 may do so by filing a petition in the manner provided for under this section. 24 Petitions for Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and circuit court positions \underline{A} 25 petition for a candidate for the office of Justice of the Supreme Court, 26 Judge of the Court of Appeals, circuit judge, or prosecuting attorney shall 27 be filed with the Secretary of State, and petitions for district court positions a petition for a candidate for the office of district judge shall 28 29 be filed with the applicable county clerk beginning at 12:00 noon forty-six (46) days before the first day of the party filing period under § 7-7-203 and 30 31 ending at 12:00 noon thirty-two (32) days before the first day of the party 32 filing period under § 7-7-203. 33 (ii) Political practice pledges for A nonpartisan 34 judicial candidates candidate filing by petition shall be filed at the same time as file a political practices pledge with the petition. 35 36 (B)(i) The petition shall be:

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1 (a) Be directed to the office with which it is 2 to be filed; and shall request 3 (b) Request that the name of the candidate be 4 placed on the ballot for the election set forth in the petition. Candidates 5 may 6 (ii) A candidate shall not begin circulating 7 petitions not earlier than sixty (60) days prior to before the filing 8 deadline. 9 (C)(i) The Secretary of State or the county clerk, as the 10 case may be, within thirty (30) days of the filing of the petition shall 11 determine within thirty (30) days: 12 (a) Determine whether the petition contains 13 the names of a sufficient number of qualified electors. The Secretary of 14 State or county clerk shall verify; and 15 (b) Verify the sufficiency of the petitions 16 within thirty (30) days of filing petition. 17 (ii) The sufficiency of any a petition filed under 18 the provisions of this section may be challenged in the same manner as 19 provided by law for election contests, under § 7-5-801 et seq. 20 Qualified electors A qualified elector signing the (D) petitions petition must be <u>a</u> registered voters <u>voter</u> in the geographic area 21 22 applicable to the position at the time they sign he or she signs the 23 petition. Each qualified elector shall provide on the petition his or her 24 printed: 25 (i) Printed name, signature, address, date; 26 (ii) Signature; 27 (iii) Address; 28 (iv) Date of birth; and date 29 (v) Date of signing on the petition. 30 (E) In determining the number of qualified electors in the 31 state or in any court of appeals district, circuit court circuit, or district 32 court district, the total number of all votes cast therein for Governor in 33 the immediately preceding general gubernatorial election shall be conclusive 34 of the number of all qualified electors therein in the state, circuit, or 35 district for purposes of this section. 36 (2)(A) Candidates A candidate by petition for Justice of the

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1	Supreme Court shall file petitions <u>a petition</u> signed by at least ten <u>the</u>
2	lesser of:
3	(i) Three percent (3%) of the qualified electors
4	residing within the state; and
5	<u>(ii) Ten</u> thousand (10,000) qualified electors or
6	three percent (3%) of the qualified electors residing within the state,
7	whichever is the lesser.
8	(B) Candidates <u>A candidate</u> by petition for <u>Judge of</u> the
9	Court of Appeals shall file petitions <u>a petition</u> signed by <u>the lesser of:</u>
10	(i) three Three percent (3%) of the qualified
11	electors residing within the court of appeals district for which the
12	candidate seeks office , but in no event shall more than two ; and
13	(ii) Two thousand (2,000) signatures be required
14	qualified electors.
15	(C) Candidates <u>A candidate</u> by petition for circuit judge
16	shall file petitions a petition signed by the lesser of:
17	(i) three Three percent (3%) of the qualified
18	electors residing within the circuit for which the candidate seeks office,
19	but in no event shall more than two; and
20	(ii) Two thousand (2,000) signatures be required
21	qualified electors.
22	(D) Candidates <u>A candidate</u> by petition for district judge
23	shall file petitions <u>a petition</u> signed by at least one <u>the lesser of:</u>
24	(i) One percent (1%) of the qualified electors
25	residing within the district for which the candidate seeks office , but in no
26	event shall more than two; and
27	(ii) Two thousand (2,000) signatures be required
28	<u>qualified electors</u> .
29	(E) A candidate by petition for prosecuting attorney shall
30	file a petition signed by the lesser of:
31	(i) Three percent (3%) of the qualified electors
32	residing within the district for which the candidate seeks office; and
33	(ii) Two thousand (2,000) qualified electors.
34	(d) <u>(1)</u> No votes <u>Votes</u> for a write-in candidate in a nonpartisan
35	$rac{\mathrm{judicial}}{\mathrm{judicial}}$ election shall $\mathrm{\underline{not}}$ be counted or tabulated unless the candidate or
36	his or her agent gives notice in writing of his or her intention to be a

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1 write-in candidate to the: 2 (A) The county board of election commissioners of each 3 county in which the candidate seeks election; and either: 4 (1)(A)(B)(i) The Secretary of State, if a candidate for a 5 Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Court of Appeals, or a circuit judgeship judge, or prosecuting attorney; or 6 7 (B)(ii) A county clerk, if a candidate for a 8 district judgeship district judge. 9 (2) The written notice must shall be given not no later than 10 eighty (80) days before the nonpartisan judicial election. 11 (3) Write-in candidates A write-in candidate shall file a 12 political practices pledge at the same time as filing a notice of intention. 13 (e)(1) A candidate for Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the 14 Court of Appeals, or circuit judge, or prosecuting attorney shall file with 15 the Secretary of State. 16 (2) A candidate for district judge shall file with the county 17 clerk. 18 (f)(1)(A) A candidate for nonpartisan judicial office may candidate 19 shall not use more than three (3) given names, one (1) of which may be a 20 nickname or any other another word used for the purpose of identifying to 21 identify the candidate to the voters. 22 (B)(i) A candidate for nonpartisan judicial office 23 candidate may add as a prefix to his or her name the title or an abbreviation 24 of an elective public office the candidate currently holds. 25 (ii) A candidate may use as the prefix the title of 26 a judicial office in an election for a judgeship only if the candidate is 27 currently serving in a judicial position to which the candidate has been 28 elected. 29 (C) A nickname shall not include a professional or 30 honorary title. 31 The names and titles as proposed to be used by each a (2) 32 candidate on the political practice practices pledge shall be reviewed no 33 later than one (1) business day after the filing deadline by the: 34 (A) The Secretary of State for Supreme Court, Court of 35 Appeals, and circuit court positions a candidate for Justice of the Supreme 36 Court, Judge of the Court of Appeals, circuit judge, and prosecuting

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1 attorney; and by the 2 (B) The county board of election commissioners for 3 district court positions a candidate for district judge. 4 (3)(A) The name of every each candidate shall be printed on the 5 ballot in the form as certified by either the Secretary of State or the 6 county board of election commissioners. 7 (B) However, the The county board of election commissioners may substitute an abbreviated title if the ballot lacks space 8 9 for the title requested by a candidate. 10 (C) The county board of election commissioners immediately 11 shall immediately notify a candidate whose requested title is abbreviated by 12 the county board of election commissioners. 13 (4) A candidate shall not be permitted to change the form in 14 which his or her name will be printed on the ballot after the deadline for 15 filing the political practices pledge. 16 17 SECTION 14. Arkansas Code § 7-11-105(d)(3), concerning special 18 election ballots, is amended to read as follows: 19 (3) Separate ballots containing the names of the candidates to 20 be voted on at the special election or nonpartisan judicial elections 21 election, if applicable, and any other measures or questions that may be 22 presented for a vote shall be prepared and made available to voters 23 requesting a separate ballot. 24 25 SECTION 15. Arkansas Code § 19-5-1225 is amended to read as follows: 26 19-5-1225. Judicial Nonpartisan Filing Fee Fund. 27 There is established on the books of the Treasurer of State, the (a) 28 Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a fund to be known as the "Judicial Nonpartisan Filing Fee Fund". 29 30 (b)(1) The fund shall consist of nonpartisan judicial office filing 31 fees as set out in under § 7-10-103. 32 (2) The fund shall be used for covering to cover the cost of 33 election expenses of the State Board of Election Commissioners as set out in 34 § 7-10-101 et seq. 35 36