

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015
4

As Engrossed: S3/25/15

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1687

5 By: Representative Ballinger
6 By: Senator *B. King*
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING BALLOT QUESTIONS;
10 TO ADD CLARITY TO THE FORMAT OF A BALLOT QUESTION;
11 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
13

Subtitle

15 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING BALLOT
16 QUESTIONS; AND TO ADD CLARITY TO THE
17 FORMAT OF A BALLOT QUESTION.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 14-14-917(d), concerning ballot*
23 *specifications for county initiative and referendum measures, is amended to*
24 *read as follows:*

25 *(d) Ballot Specifications for Initiative and Referendum Measures.*

26 *(1)(A) Upon receipt of any initiative or referendum measure*
27 *certified as sufficient by a county clerk, it shall be the duty of the*
28 *members of the county board of election commissioners to take due cognizance*
29 *and to certify the results of the vote cast thereon. ~~So that electors may~~*
30 *~~vote upon the ordinance or measure,~~*

31 *(B)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (d)(1)(B)(ii) of*
32 *this section, the board shall cause the ballot title to be placed on the*
33 *ballot to be used in the election, stating plainly and separately the title*
34 *of the ordinance or measure so initiated or referred by the quorum court to*
35 *the electors with these words:*

36 *“FOR PROPOSED INITIATIVE (OR REFERRED) ORDINANCE (OR AMENDMENT OR*



1 MEASURE)

2 NO. _____

3 AGAINST PROPOSED INITIATIVE (OR REFERRED) ORDINANCE (OR AMENDMENT OR
4 MEASURE)

5 NO. _____”.

6 (ii) If the election concerns repeal of an ordinance
7 or measure by referendum petition, the ballot shall state plainly the title
8 of the initiated ordinance or referred measure with these words:

9 “FOR REPEAL OF THE INITIATIVE (OR REFERRED) ORDINANCE (OR AMENDMENT OR
10 MEASURE)

11 NO. _____

12 AGAINST REPEAL OF THE INITIATIVE (OR REFERRED) ORDINANCE (OR AMENDMENT
13 OR MEASURE)

14 NO. _____

15 (2) In arranging the ballot title on the ballot, the commissioners
16 shall place it separate and apart from the ballot titles of the state acts,
17 constitutional amendments, and the like. If the board of election
18 commissioners fails or refuses to submit a proposed initiative or referendum
19 ordinance when it is properly petitioned and certified as sufficient, the
20 qualified electors of the county may vote for or against the ordinance or
21 measure by writing or stamping on their ballots the proposed ballot title,
22 followed by the word “FOR” or “AGAINST”, and a majority of the votes so cast
23 shall be sufficient to adopt or reject the proposed ordinance.

24
25 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 14, Chapter 55, Subchapter 3, is
26 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

27 14-55-303. Form of ordinance ballot question.

28 (a)(1) Except as provided in subdivision (a)(2) of this section, the
29 ballot in an election on an ordinance proposed by initiative shall plainly
30 state the title of the ordinance to be voted on, followed by the words:

31 “FOR PROPOSED INITIATIVE NO. _____

32 AGAINST PROPOSED INITIATIVE NO. _____”.

33 (2) If the election is for repeal of an ordinance by referendum
34 petition, the ballot in the election shall plainly state the title of the
35 ordinance to be voted on followed by the words:

36 “FOR REPEAL OF THE ORDINANCE NO. _____

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AGAINST REPEAL OF THE ORDINANCE NO. _____".
(b) The ballot in an election on a referred measure shall plainly
state the title of the referred measure followed by the words:
"FOR REFERRED MEASURE (OR ORDINANCE OR AMENDMENT)
NO. _____
AGAINST REFERRED MEASURE (OR ORDINANCE OR AMENDMENT)

/s/Ballinger