1 State of Arkansas   *As Engrossed: S3/15/17*

2 91st General Assembly   A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2017   SENATE BILL 698

4

5 By: Senator B. King

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7 ## For An Act To Be Entitled

8   AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE PUBLICATION OF

9   PUBLIC NOTICE OF BALLOT MEASURES; TO CREATE THE

10   MANDATORY PUBLICATION REIMBURSEMENT FUND; AND FOR

11   OTHER PURPOSES.

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14   **Subtitle**

15   TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE

16   PUBLICATION OF PUBLIC NOTICE OF BALLOT

17   MEASURES; AND TO CREATE THE MANDATORY

18   PUBLICATION REIMBURSEMENT FUND.

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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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23   *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-9-113 is amended to read as follows:*

24   *7-9-113. Publication of notice.*

25   *(a)(1) The Secretary of State shall be charged with the duty of*

26 *letting contracts for publishing notices as authorized in this section.*

27   *(2)(A) For measures proposed by petition, the petition sponsor*

28 *shall reimburse the cost of publication to the Secretary of State within*

29 *thirty (30) calendar days of notification of the final costs for publication.*

30   *(B) The Secretary of State shall provide the sponsor of*

31 *the measure a complete cost breakdown including the:*

32   *(i) Number of locations where the measure was*

33 *published;*

34   *(ii) Number of times the measure was published;*

35   *(iii) Dates the measure was published; and*

36   *(iv) Costs for publishing the measure.*

1   (C) The reimbursement shall be placed by the Secretary of
2 State into the Mandatory Publication Reimbursement Fund.
3   (b)(1) Before the election at which any proposed or referred measure
4 is to be voted upon by the people, notice shall be published in two (2)
5 weekly issues of some newspaper in each county as is provided by law.
6   (2)(A) Publication of the notice for amendments proposed by the
7 General Assembly shall commence six (6) months before the election.
8   (B) Publication of the notice for all other measures shall
9 commence eight (8) weeks before the election.
10   ~~(c) At least one (1) notice shall contain the number, the popular~~
11 ~~name, the ballot title, and a complete text of the measure to be submitted~~
12 ~~and shall be published in a camera-ready format in a type no smaller than~~
13 ~~ten-point type.~~
14   (c)(1) For amendments proposed by the General Assembly, at least one
15 (1) notice shall:
16   (A) Contain the number, the popular name, the ballot
17 title, and a complete text of the amendment to be submitted; and
18   (B) Be published in a camera-ready format in a type no
19 smaller than 10-point type.
20   (2) For all other proposed measures or amendments, at least one
21 (1) notice shall:
22   (A) Contain the number, the popular name, and the ballot
23 title of the measure to be submitted;
24   (B) Reference a website where the full text of the measure
25 is published; and
26   (C) Be published in a camera-ready format in a type no
27 smaller than 10-point type.
28   (d) It shall be the duty of the Secretary of State, in connection with
29 ~~a copy~~ notice of the proposed ~~amendment~~ measure, to give notice in the same
30 newspapers that each elector on depositing his or her ballot at the election
31 shall vote for or against the ~~amendment~~ measure.
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33   SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 19, Chapter 5, Subchapter 12, is
34 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:
35   19-5-1258. Mandatory Publication Reimbursement Fund
36   (a) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, the

1 *Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a miscellaneous*

2 *fund to be known as the "Mandatory Publication Reimbursement Fund".*

3 *(b) The fund shall consist of reimbursements to the Secretary of State*

4 *for mandatory publication of petitions and measures under § 7-9-113.*

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6   */s/B. King*

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