1	State of Arkansas	
2	92nd General Assembly A Bill	
3	Regular Session, 2019 SENATE BIL	L 572
4		
5	By: Senators Elliott, L. Chesterfield	
6		
7	For An Act To Be Entitled	
8	AN ACT TO ALLOW VOTER REGISTRATION AND BALLOT ACCESS	
9	FOR ELIGIBLE PERSONS INCARCERATED IN COUNTY JAILS;	
10	AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.	
11		
12	Subtitle	
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14	TO ALLOW VOTER REGISTRATION AND BALLOT	
15 16	ACCESS FOR ELIGIBLE PERSONS INCARCERATED IN COUNTY JAILS.	
10 17	IN COUNTY JAILS.	
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19	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:	
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21	SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings and intent.	
22	(a) The General Assembly finds that:	
23	(1) Improving voter participation is in the interest of all	
24	Arkansans;	
25	(2) There are hundreds of people in Arkansas who are eligible	e to
26	register to vote but are not registered to vote;	
27	(3) A number of those people eligible to register to vote but	<u>t</u>
28	who are not registered to vote are housed in Arkansas county jails;	
29	(4) There are thousands of persons registered to vote who do	not
30	vote; and	
31	(5) A number of those people registered to vote and who do no	<u>ot</u>
32	vote are housed in Arkansas county jails.	
33	(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that county clerks con-	<u>sult</u>
34	with administrators of county jails, and other appropriate county elected	
35	officials to create a process to allow county officials or volunteers to:	
36	(1) Register eligible persons housed in county jails to vote	;

1	(2) Deliver absence ballots to eligible registered voters; and
2	(3) Pick up absentee ballots from the county jail and deliver
3	absentee ballots to the clerk's office.
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5	SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-5-403, concerning absentee ballots and
6	designated bearers, authorized agents, and administrators, is amended to add
7	an additional subsection to read as follows:
8	(f)(1)(A) The administrator for a county jail, or his or her designee,
9	shall deliver to the county clerk an application for an absentee ballot for
10	any voter who is incarcerated in a county jail who authorizes the
11	administrator, or his or her designee, to obtain an absentee ballot on his or
12	her behalf.
13	(B) The absentee ballot application shall identify the
14	administrator, or his or her designee, by name and the county jail where the
15	voter resides.
16	(2) Upon presentation of the administrator's, o rhis or
17	designee's, photographic identification to the county clerk, an
18	administrator, or his or her designee, may receive absentee ballots for as
19	many qualified residents of the county jail as:
20	(A) Apply for absentee ballots; and
21	(B) Identify the administrator, or his or her designee, in
22	the voter's absentee ballot application.
23	(3)(A) An administrator, or his or her designee, may deliver the
24	absentee ballot to the county clerk for any voter who names the
25	administrator, or his or her designee, on his or her application and voter
26	statement.
27	(B) Absentee ballots may be delivered to the county clerk
28	in person by the administrator, or his or her designee, or by mail.
29	(4) Before obtaining an absentee ballot, an administrator, or
30	his or her designee, shall submit to the county clerk an affidavit, signed
31	and dated by the administrator, or his or her designee, stating:
32	(A) That he or she is the administrative head of a county
33	jail, or the designee of the administrative head of the county jail;
34	(B) The name and address of the county jail;
35	(C) That he or she has been authorized by the voters who
36	reside in his or her county iail to obtain from the county clerk and return

1	to the county clerk absence pariots on their behalf; and
2	(D) That each of the voters for whom the administrator, or
3	his or her designee, seeks to obtain an absentee ballot has named the
4	administrator, or his or her designee, on his or her application.
5	(5) The county clerk shall attach a copy of the administrator's,
6	or his or her designee's, affidavit to each application for an absentee
7	ballot delivered by the administrator, or his or her designee, to the county
8	clerk.
9	(6) When the ballots are returned by the administrator, or his
10	or her designee, in person or by mail, the county clerk shall write or stamp
11	the word "ADMINISTRATOR" and write the administrator's, or his or her
12	designee's, name on the voter's absentee ballot return envelope.
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