

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

As Engrossed: H3/9/21

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1655

5 *By: Representatives Penzo, Dotson*
6 *By: Senator Hester*
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS ELECTION LAW; TO AMEND THE
10 LAW CONCERNING ORGANIZED POLITICAL PARTIES; TO AMEND
11 THE LAW CONCERNING THE ELECTION OF CERTAIN PUBLIC
12 OFFICES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 TO AMEND ARKANSAS ELECTION LAW; TO AMEND
16 THE LAW CONCERNING ORGANIZED POLITICAL
17 PARTIES; AND TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING
18 THE ELECTION OF CERTAIN PUBLIC OFFICES.
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-7-301(a), concerning the powers and
25 duties of political parties, is amended to read as follows:

26 (a) A political party may impose a filing fee for candidates seeking
27 nomination by that party.

28 (1)(A) The filing fee for county, municipal, and township
29 offices shall be fixed by the county committee, as authorized by the state
30 executive committee.

31 (B) However, the filing fee for municipal offices shall be
32 fixed at an amount not to exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25).

33 (2) For all other races, the filing fee shall be established by
34 the state executive committee.

35 (3) On or before noon of the last day of the political party
36 filing period, all candidates at primary elections of political parties shall



1 file an affidavit of eligibility and any pledge required by such party and
2 shall pay the party filing fees required by the party, as follows:

3 ~~(1)~~(A) Candidates for United States Senator, for United
4 States Representative, and for all state offices shall file the pledge and
5 the affidavit of eligibility and pay the party filing fees with the secretary
6 of the state committee of the political party or his or her designated agent;

7 ~~(2)~~(B) Candidates for district offices, including, but not
8 limited to, the offices of State Representative and State Senator, shall file
9 the pledge and affidavit of eligibility with the secretary of the state
10 committee of the political party or his or her designated agent and pay the
11 party filing fees with the secretary of the state committee of the political
12 party or his or her designated agent; and

13 ~~(3)~~(C) All candidates for county, municipal, and township
14 offices, candidates for county committee member, and delegates to the county
15 convention shall file the pledge and the affidavit of eligibility and pay the
16 party filing fees with the secretary of the county committee of the political
17 party.

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19 *SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 14-42-206(a), concerning nominating*
20 *petitions for municipal elections, is amended to read as follows:*

21 *(a)(1) The city or town council of ~~any~~ a city or town with the mayor-*
22 *council form of government, ~~may~~ shall request the county party committees of*
23 *recognized political parties under the laws of the state to conduct party*
24 *primaries for municipal offices for the forthcoming year by resolution*
25 *passed:*

26 *(A) Before January 1 of the year of the election, if the*
27 *election will occur in a year in which the preferential primary election is*
28 *held in May under § 7-7-203; and*

29 *(B) No less than sixty (60) days before the party filing*
30 *period begins under § 7-7-203, if the election will occur in a year in which*
31 *the preferential primary election is held in March under § 7-7-203.*

32 ~~*(2) The resolution shall remain in effect for the subsequent*~~
33 ~~*elections unless revoked by the city or town council.*~~

34 ~~*(3) When the resolution has been adopted, the clerk or recorder*~~
35 ~~*shall mail a certified copy of the resolution to the chairs of the county*~~
36 ~~*party committees and to the chairs of the state party committees.*~~

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~~(4)~~(3) Candidates nominated for municipal office by political
primaries under this section shall be certified by the county party
committees to the county board of election commissioners and shall be placed
on the ballot at the general election.

/s/Penzo