

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 260

5 By: Senator J. Dotson
6 By: Representatives Underwood, Achor, John Carr, Gonzales, G. Hodges, Lundstrum, McCollum, J.
7 Moore, Pilkington, Rose, Wardlaw
8

For An Act To Be Entitled

9
10 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ENSURING ACCESS FOR ALL
11 ARKANSANS AND VOTER PROTECTION ACT OF 2023; TO AMEND
12 THE PROCEDURE FOR THE FILING OF A BALLOT INITIATIVE
13 PETITION AND REFERENDUM PETITION; TO AMEND THE LAW
14 CONCERNING STATEWIDE PETITIONS; AND FOR OTHER
15 PURPOSES.
16
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Subtitle

18
19 TO CREATE THE ENSURING ACCESS FOR ALL
20 ARKANSANS AND VOTER PROTECTION ACT OF
21 2023; TO AMEND THE PROCEDURE FOR THE
22 FILING OF A BALLOT INITIATIVE PETITION
23 AND REFERENDUM PETITION; AND TO AMEND THE
24 LAW CONCERNING STATEWIDE PETITIONS.
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27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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29 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

30 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Ensuring Access for
31 All Arkansans and Voter Protection Act of 2023".
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33 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-9-126, concerning the count of signatures
34 for initiative petitions or referendum petitions, is amended to add
35 additional subsections to read as follows:

36 (e) In order to certify a measure for the state wide election ballot,



1 the official charged with verifying the signatures on an initiative petition
2 or referendum petition shall also verify:

3 (1) For a statutory initiative petition or referendum petition,
4 that:

5 (A) Petitions are filed from a minimum of fifty (50)
6 counties of the state; and

7 (B) The petitions bear the signature of a minimum of
8 three-fourths (3/4) of the designated percentage of the electors of each
9 county represented in subdivision (e)(1)(A) of this section; and

10 (2) For an initiative petition for a constitutional amendment,
11 that:

12 (A) Petitions are filed from fifty (50) counties of the
13 state; and

14 (B) The petitions bear the signature of a minimum of
15 three-fourths (3/4) of the designated percentage of the electors of each
16 county represented in subdivision (e)(2)(A) of this section.

17 (f) If the requirements of subsection (e) of this section are less
18 than the designated number of signatures or counties represented by petitions
19 required by the Arkansas Constitution and statutory law in order to certify
20 the measure for the ballot and the deadline for filing petitions has passed,
21 the official charged with verifying the signatures shall declare the petition
22 insufficient and shall not accept and file any additional signatures to cure
23 the insufficiency of the petition on its face.

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