

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: S4/7/25

95th General Assembly

## A Bill

Regular Session, 2025

HOUSE BILL 1694

By: Representative Hawk

By: Senator Crowell

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING ALTERNATIVES TO  
ELECTRONIC FILING FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS; AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING ALTERNATIVES  
TO ELECTRONIC FILING FOR CAMPAIGN  
FINANCE REPORTS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-6-230 is amended to read as follows:

7-6-230. ~~Alternative to electronic~~ Electronic filing of reports.

~~(a)(1) A candidate required to file campaign contribution and  
expenditure reports in electronic form under § 7-6-207 may file reports in  
paper form under this section.~~

~~(2)(A) A candidate filing reports in paper form under  
subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall submit with his or her first paper  
report in an election cycle a notarized affidavit on a form prepared by the  
Secretary of State.~~

~~(B) The Secretary of State shall:~~

~~(i) Not accept a report in paper form under  
subdivision (a)(1) of this section if a notarized affidavit was not submitted  
with the first paper report in the election cycle;~~

~~(ii) Provide written notice to the candidate within  
five (5) business days if the report in paper form was not filed or accepted;  
and~~



~~(iii) Provide the reason the report in paper form was not filed or accepted.~~

~~(C)(a)~~ The Secretary of State shall develop electronic reporting forms for campaign contribution and expenditure reports required under § 7-6-207, including without limitation:

~~(i)(1)~~ A cover sheet for a reporting period;

~~(ii)(2)~~ Campaign contribution reports; and

~~(iii)(3)~~ Campaign expenditure reports.

~~(D)(b)~~ The Secretary of State shall develop electronic reporting forms in a manner that allows a candidate to:

~~(i)(1)~~ Fill out an electronic form for each reporting period in an electronic word processing file, portable document format, or equivalent format that may be saved in a read-only format;

~~(ii)(2)~~ Upload the electronic reporting forms electronically by an upload to the internet or delivered by electronic media to the Secretary of State; and

~~(iii)(3)~~ Combine all electronic forms into a single document that is available to the public in an electronically searchable format.

(c)(1) In the event of an emergency, the Secretary of State shall allow a candidate to email, fax, or deliver a paper copy of his or her campaign contribution and expenditure report to meet the deadline requirements under § 7-6-207.

(2) A candidate submitting a paper copy of a campaign contribution and expenditure report under subdivision (c)(1) of this section shall upload the report electronically to the Secretary of State within ten (10) days of submitting the paper copy.

~~(b)(1) The Secretary of State shall make available to candidates wishing to file reports in paper form under this section:~~

~~(A) Information on the deadlines for filing required reports; and~~

~~(B)(i) Appropriate forms and instructions for complying with the deadlines.~~

~~(ii) The Arkansas Ethics Commission shall approve the forms and instructions used by the Secretary of State to ensure that all required information is requested.~~

1           ~~(2) Reports shall be filed on the forms furnished by the~~  
2     ~~Secretary of State, except that computer generated contribution and~~  
3     ~~expenditure reports shall be accepted by the Secretary of State and the~~  
4     ~~commission provided that all of the requisite elements are included.~~

5           ~~(c)(1)(A) A report submitted in paper form under this section other~~  
6     ~~than a preelection report is timely filed if it is either hand delivered or~~  
7     ~~mailed to the Secretary of State, properly addressed, and postage prepaid,~~  
8     ~~bearing a postmark indicating that it was received by the post office or~~  
9     ~~common carrier on the date that the report is due.~~

10           ~~(B) A preelection report submitted in paper form under~~  
11     ~~this section is timely filed if it is received by the Secretary of State no~~  
12     ~~later than seven (7) days before the election for which it is filed.~~

13           ~~(2) The Secretary of State shall accept a report via facsimile,~~  
14     ~~provided the original is received by the Secretary of State within ten (10)~~  
15     ~~days of the date of facsimile transmission.~~

16           ~~(d)(1) The Secretary of State shall make available campaign~~  
17     ~~contribution and expenditure reports submitted in paper form, carryover fund~~  
18     ~~reports submitted in paper form, and affidavits accompanying reports filed in~~  
19     ~~paper form, on a portion of the official website of the Secretary of State.~~

20           ~~(2) The Secretary of State shall comply with the requirements of~~  
21     ~~§ 7-6-214(c) regarding the "paper filer" designation and publication~~  
22     ~~requirements for all reports submitted in paper form.~~

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