

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

As Engrossed: H2/12/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1141

5 By: Representative R. Scott Richardson
6 By: Senator J. Bryant
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE CRIMINAL OFFENSES RELATED TO
10 DECEPTIVE AND INJURIOUS MEDIA IN THE COURSE OF
11 ELECTION CAMPAIGNS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
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Subtitle

15 TO CREATE CRIMINAL OFFENSES RELATED TO
16 DECEPTIVE AND INJURIOUS MEDIA IN THE
17 COURSE OF ELECTION CAMPAIGNS.
18

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-1-103(a), concerning misdemeanors under*
22 *the laws governing elections in the State of Arkansas, is amended to add an*
23 *additional subdivision to read as follows:*

24 *(25)(A)(i) As used in this subdivision (a)(25), "deep fake" means a*
25 *medium of communication that is deliberately manipulated using artificial*
26 *intelligence technology to appear to depict a real person performing an*
27 *action that did not occur for the purpose of attempting to deceive the viewer*
28 *into believing the action did occur and for which no reasonable observer*
29 *could believe there was an intent other than to injure the candidate.*

30 *(ii) As used in this subdivision (a)(25), "deep*
31 *fake" does not include:*

32 *(a) A cartoon, caricature, or any other*
33 *communication that a reasonable viewer would understand to be a satirical*
34 *representation of the individual;*

35 *(b) A communication altered only to change the*
36 *saturation, brightness, contrast, color, or any other superficial quality of*



1 the image; or

2 (c) Any communication that is otherwise lawful
3 under the Arkansas Constitution, Article 2, § 6 or under the First Amendment
4 to the United States Constitution.

5
6 (B) It shall be unlawful for a person to purposely injure
7 a candidate for office in Arkansas by:

8 (i) Creating or causing to be created a deep fake;
9 and

10 (ii) Publishing, distributing, or causing to be
11 published or distributed the deep fake during the period beginning ninety
12 (90) days before the date of the general election and ending on the date of
13 the general election with the knowledge that the published or distributed
14 communication was a deep fake.

15 (C) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution for an
16 offense under this subdivision (a)(25) that the deep fake of the candidate
17 included a clear label on the image stating that the communication was a deep
18 fake.

19 /s/R. Scott Richardson

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