

**Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the Arkansas
Constitution.**

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4
5 By: Representative Ray
6 By: Senator J. Payton
7

HJR 1017

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

8
9 AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION PROVIDING
10 THAT A PROPOSED STATE-WIDE INITIATED ACT OR
11 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT SHALL TAKE EFFECT AND BECOME
12 A LAW WHEN APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE VOTES CAST
13 UPON THE MEASURE AT THE ELECTION AND ALSO APPROVED BY
14 A MAJORITY OF THE VOTES CAST UPON THE MEASURE IN A
15 MAJORITY OF THE COUNTIES OF THE STATE; AND PROVIDING
16 THAT AN ACT, A MEASURE, OR A PORTION OF AN ACT OR
17 MEASURE SUBJECT TO A STATE-WIDE REFERENDUM SHALL BE
18 REPEALED IF REJECTED BY A MAJORITY OF THE ELECTORS
19 VOTING UPON THE MATTER, REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF
20 COUNTIES REJECTING THE ACT, MEASURE, OR PORTION OF AN
21 ACT OR MEASURE ACCORDING TO THE VOTES CAST IN THE
22 COUNTY.
23

Subtitle

24
25
26 A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROVIDING
27 THAT A PROPOSED STATE-WIDE INITIATED ACT
28 OR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT SHALL
29 BECOME A LAW WHEN APPROVED BY A MAJORITY
30 OF THE VOTES CAST IN THE ELECTION AND A
31 MAJORITY OF THE COUNTIES OF THE STATE.
32

33 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL
34 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE SENATE, A MAJORITY OF ALL
35 MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:
36



1 THAT the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of
2 the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state
3 for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives
4 and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election
5 adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of
6 the State of Arkansas, to wit:

7
8 SECTION 1. The subsection of Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 1,
9 titled "Majority", is amended to read as follows:

10 Majority. Any measure submitted to the people as herein provided
11 shall take effect and become a law when approved by a majority of the votes
12 cast upon ~~such~~ the measure, and not otherwise, and shall not be required to
13 receive a majority of the electors voting at such election. In addition to
14 approval by a majority of the votes cast upon the measure at the election, a
15 state-wide measure shall take effect and become a law when approved by a
16 majority of votes cast upon the measure in a majority of the counties of the
17 state. However, an act, a measure, or the portion or an act or measure
18 subject to a state-wide referendum shall be repealed if the act, measure, or
19 portion of an act or measure is rejected by a majority of the electors voting
20 upon the matter, regardless of the number of counties rejecting the act,
21 measure, or portion of an act or measure according to the votes cast in the
22 county. ~~Such measures~~ A measure approved under this amendment shall be
23 operative on and after the thirtieth day after the election at which it is
24 approved, unless otherwise specified in the Act.

25 This section shall not be construed to deprive any member of the
26 General Assembly of the right to introduce any measure, but no measure shall
27 be submitted to the people by the General Assembly, except a proposed
28 constitutional amendment or amendments as provided for in this Constitution.
29

30 SECTION 2. The subsection of Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 1,
31 titled "Conflicting Measures", is amended to read as follows:

32 Conflicting Measures. If conflicting measures initiated or referred to
33 the people ~~shall be~~ are approved by a majority of the votes severally cast
34 ~~for and against the same~~ under this amendment at the same election, the one
35 receiving the highest number of affirmative votes shall become law.
36

1 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code, Article 19, § 22, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 § 22. Constitutional amendments.

4 Either branch of the General Assembly, at a regular session thereof,
5 may propose amendments to this Constitution; and if the same be agreed to by
6 a majority of all members elected to each house, such proposed amendments
7 shall be entered on the journals with the yeas and nays, and published in at
8 least one (1) newspaper in each county, where a newspaper is published, for
9 six (6) months immediately preceding the next general election for Senators
10 and Representatives, at which time the same shall be submitted to the
11 electors of the State, for approval or rejection; ~~and if a majority of the~~
12 ~~electors voting at such election adopt such amendments, the same shall become~~
13 ~~a part of this Constitution~~ An amendment submitted under this section shall
14 become a part of this Constitution if a majority of the electors voting at
15 the next general election for Senators and Representatives approve the
16 amendment and the amendment is also approved by a majority of votes cast upon
17 the amendment in a majority of the counties of the state. But no more than
18 three (3) amendments shall be proposed or submitted at the same time. They
19 shall be so submitted as to enable the electors to vote on each amendment
20 separately.

21
22 SECTION 4. Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 70, § 2, is amended to
23 read as follows:

24 § 2. Additional Constitutional amendments authorized.

25 In addition to the three (3) amendments to the Constitution allowed
26 pursuant to Article 19, § 22, either branch of the General Assembly at a
27 regular session thereof may propose an amendment to the Constitution to
28 change the salaries for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
29 Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer of State, Commissioner of
30 State Lands, and Auditor of State and for members of the General Assembly.
31 If the same be agreed to by a majority of all members elected to each house,
32 such proposed amendment shall be entered on the journals with the yeas and
33 nays, and published in at least one (1) newspaper in each county, where a
34 newspaper is published, for six (6) months immediately preceding the next
35 general election for Senators and Representatives, at which time the same
36 shall be submitted to the electors of the State for approval or rejection.

1 ~~If a majority of the electors voting at such election adopt the amendment the~~
 2 ~~same shall become a part of this Constitution~~ An amendment submitted under
 3 this section shall become a part of this Constitution if a majority of the
 4 electors voting at the next general election for Senator and Representatives
 5 approve the amendment and the amendment is also approved by a majority of
 6 votes cast upon the amendment in a majority of the counties of the state.
 7 Only one (1) amendment to the Constitution may be referred pursuant to this
 8 section.

9
 10 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment to the Arkansas
 11 Constitution shall be effective on and after January 1, 2027.

12
 13 SECTION 6. BALLOT TITLE AND POPULAR NAME. When this proposed
 14 amendment is submitted to the electors of this state on the general election
 15 ballot:

16 (1) The title of this joint resolution shall be the ballot
 17 title; and

18 (2) The popular name shall be "A Constitutional Amendment
 19 Providing that a Proposed State-Wide Initiated Act or Constitutional
 20 Amendment Shall Take Effect and Become a Law When Approved by a Majority of
 21 the Votes Cast Upon the Measure at the Election and Also Approved by a
 22 Majority of the Votes Cast Upon the Measure in a Majority of the Counties of
 23 the State; and Providing that an Act, a Measure, or the Portion of an Act or
 24 Measure Subject to a State-Wide Referendum Shall Be Repealed if Rejected by a
 25 Majority of the Electors Voting Upon the Matter, Regardless of the Number of
 26 Counties Rejecting the Act, Measure, or Portion of an Act or Measure
 27 According to the Votes Cast in the County."