## Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law. Act 453 of the Regular Session

| 1  | State of Arkansas   | As Engrossed: H3/10/25                  |                          |
|----|---|---|--------------------------|
| 2  | 95th General Assembly   | A Bill                                  |                          |
| 3  | Regular Session, 2025   |   | HOUSE BILL 1574          |
| 4  |   |   |                          |
| 5  | By: Representative Vaught                                       |   |                          |
| 6  | By: Senator K. Hammer   |   |                          |
| 7  |   |   |                          |
| 8  |   | For An Act To Be Entitled               |                          |
| 9  | AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING PAID CANVASSERS;             |   |                          |
| 10 | TO REQUIRE DOMICILE IN ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER                  |   |                          |
| 11 | PURPOSES.   |   |                          |
| 12 |   |   |                          |
| 13 |   |   |                          |
| 14 |   | Subtitle                                |                          |
| 15 | TO A  | MEND THE LAW CONCERNING PAID            |                          |
| 16 | CANVASSERS; AND TO REQUIRE DOMICILE IN                          |   |                          |
| 17 | ARKANSAS.   |   |                          |
| 18 |   |   |                          |
| 19 | BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS: |   |                          |
| 20 |   |   |                          |
| 21 | SECTION 1. Ark  | ansas Code § 7-9-103(a), concern        | ing residence of         |
| 22 | canvassers, is amende   | d to add an additional subdivisi        | on to read as follows:   |
| 23 | <u>(7) A pe</u>   | rson shall not act as a paid can        | vasser unless he or she  |
| 24 | <u>is:</u>  |   |                          |
| 25 | <u>(A)</u>  | A resident of this state; and           |                          |
| 26 | <u>(B)</u>  | Domiciled in the state if acti          | ng as a paid canvasser   |
| 27 | for a statewide initi   | <u>ative petition or statewide refe</u> | rendum petition.         |
| 28 |   |   |                          |
| 29 | SECTION 2. Arka   | ansas Code § 7-9-103(d), concern        | ing the signing of       |
| 30 | petitions, is amended   | to read as follows:                     |                          |
| 31 | (d) <u>(1) A perso</u>  | n acting as a sponsor or an agen        | t of a sponsor shall not |
| 32 | knowingly hire a perse  | on as a paid canvasser who:             |                          |
| 33 | <u>(A)</u>  | Is not a resident of this state         | e; and                   |
| 34 | <u>(B)</u>  | Is not domiciled in the state           | if acting as a paid      |
| 35 | canvasser for a state   | <u>wide initiative petition or stat</u> | ewide referendum         |
| 36 | petition.   |   |                          |

| 1  | (2) A person who fails to comply with subdivision (d)(1) of this              |  |  |
|----|---|--|--|
| 2  | section is guilty of a violation and upon conviction shall be fined two       |  |  |
| 3  | thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) for each paid canvasser hired in      |  |  |
| 4  | violation of subdivision (d)(1) of this section.                              |  |  |
| 5  | (e) When the official charged with verifying the signatures has               |  |  |
| 6  | reasonable grounds to believe that one (1) or more signatures on a petition   |  |  |
| 7  | is forged, the official shall report the suspected forgery and basis for      |  |  |
| 8  | suspecting forgery to:  |  |  |
| 9  | (1) The Division of Arkansas State Police, in the case of a                   |  |  |
| 10 | statewide petition; or  |  |  |
| 11 | (2) The prosecuting attorney of the county, in the case of a                  |  |  |
| 12 | local petition.   |  |  |
| 13 |   |  |  |
| 14 | SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. <u>Severability.</u>                                |  |  |
| 15 | If any provision of this act or the application of this act to any            |  |  |
| 16 | person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other |  |  |
| 17 | provisions or applications of this act which can be given effect without the  |  |  |
| 18 | invalid provision or application, and to this end, the provisions of this act |  |  |
| 19 | are declared severable.   |  |  |
| 20 |   |  |  |
| 21 | SECTION 4. DO NOT CODIFY. The Supreme Court has interpreted domicile to       |  |  |
| 22 | require "actual residence plus the intent to remain in a particular place".   |  |  |
| 23 | Leathers v. Womack, 341 Ark. 609, 618 (2000). An individual may have only one |  |  |
| 24 | (1) domicile, and circumstances must present "a bona fide intention of making |  |  |
| 25 | it a fixed and permanent place of abode". Id. at. 619.                        |  |  |
| 26 |   |  |  |
| 27 | /s/Vaught   |  |  |
| 28 |   |  |  |
| 29 |   |  |  |
| 30 | APPROVED: 4/3/25  |  |  |
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