

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

Act 821 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas
2 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007
4

As Engrossed: H3/15/07

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2353

5 By: Representatives Greenberg, E. Brown
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8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT CONCERNING PETITION REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW
10 POLITICAL PARTIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

12 **Subtitle**

13 AN ACT CONCERNING PETITION REQUIREMENTS
14 FOR NEW POLITICAL PARTIES.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-7-205 is amended to read as follows:*
20 *7-7-205. Petition requirements for new political parties.*

21 *(a)(1) A group desiring to form a new political party shall do so by*
22 *filing a petition with the Secretary of State.*

23 *(2) The petition shall contain at the time of filing the*
24 *signatures of qualified electors of this state equal in number to ~~at least~~*
25 *~~three percent (3%) of the total number of votes cast for the office of~~*
26 *~~Governor or nominees for presidential electors, whichever is less, at the~~*
27 *~~last preceding election~~ the signatures of at least ten thousand (10,000)*
28 *registered voters in the state.*

29 *(3) The Secretary of State shall not accept for filing any new*
30 *party petition that is not prima facie sufficient at the time of filing.*

31 *(4) The petitions shall be circulated during ~~the~~ any sixty (60)*
32 *day period beginning one hundred fifty (150) days prior to the deadline for*
33 *filing the petitions with the Secretary of State.*

34 *(b) The petition shall declare the intent of organizing a political*
35 *party, the name of which shall be stated in the declaration, and of*



1 participating in the next general election. No political party or group shall
2 assume a name or designation which is so familiar, in the opinion of the
3 Secretary of State, as to confuse or mislead the voters at an election.

4 ~~(e) The petition shall contain the form of verification as set forth~~
5 ~~in § 7-9-109.~~

6 ~~(d)(c)~~ The Secretary of State shall determine the sufficiency of the
7 signatures submitted within thirty (30) days of filing.

8 ~~(e)(d)~~ If the petition is determined to be insufficient, the Secretary
9 of State shall forthwith notify the sponsors in writing, through their
10 designated agent, and shall set forth his reasons for so finding. ~~When the~~
11 ~~notice is delivered, the sponsors shall have an additional fifteen (15) days~~
12 ~~in which to do any or all of the following:~~

13 ~~(1) Solicit and obtain additional signatures;~~

14 ~~(2) Submit proof to show that the rejected signatures, or some~~
15 ~~of them, are good and should be counted; or~~

16 ~~(3) Make the petition more definite and certain.~~

17 ~~(f) Any amendments and corrections shall not materially change the~~
18 ~~purpose and effect of the petition. No changes shall be made in the petition,~~
19 ~~except to correct apparent typographical errors or omissions.~~

20 ~~(g)(e)~~(1) Upon certification of sufficiency by the Secretary of State,
21 a new political party shall be declared by the Secretary of State.

22 (2) A new political party formed by the petition process may
23 nominate candidates by convention for the first election after certification.

24 (3) Nominated candidates shall file a political practice pledge
25 with the Secretary of State or county clerk, as the case may be, no later
26 than sixty (60) days prior to the general election.

27 (4) If the new party maintains party status by obtaining three
28 percent (3%) of the total vote cast for the office of Governor or nominees
29 for presidential electors at the first election after certification, the new
30 political party shall nominate candidates in the party primary as set forth
31 in § 7-7-101 et seq.

32 ~~(h)(f)~~ Any challenges to the certification of the Secretary of State
33 shall be filed with the Pulaski County Circuit Court.

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35 /s/ Greenberg, et al

36 APPROVED: 4/2/2007