

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

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021

HJR 1011

4
5 By: Representative Cloud

6
7 **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION**

8 AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE
9 FOR A LOCAL OPTION ELECTION CONCERNING CASINO GAMING
10 IN POPE COUNTY.

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13 **Subtitle**

14 A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FOR
15 A LOCAL OPTION ELECTION CONCERNING CASINO
16 GAMING IN POPE COUNTY.

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19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE SENATE, A MAJORITY OF ALL
21 MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

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23 THAT the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of
24 the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state
25 for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives
26 and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election
27 adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of
28 the State of Arkansas, to wit:

29
30 SECTION 1. Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 100, § 4(n)-(r) are
31 amended to read as follows:

32 (n)(1) The Arkansas Racing Commission shall require all casino
33 applicants for a casino license in ~~Pope County~~ and Jefferson County to submit
34 either a letter of support from the county judge or a resolution from the
35 quorum court in ~~the county where the proposed casino is to be located~~
36 Jefferson County and, if the proposed casino is to be located within a city



1 or town, shall also require all casino applicants to include a letter of
2 support from the mayor in the city or town where the applicant is proposing
3 the casino to be located.

4 (2) Letters of support under subdivision (n)(1) of this section
5 shall be from the county judge or quorum court and, if appropriate, the
6 mayor, who are in office at the time of the submission of the application.

7 (o)(1) The Arkansas Racing Commission shall not issue a casino license
8 in Pope County unless the voters of the county approve conducting casino
9 gaming in Pope County.

10 (2)(A) An election shall be called on the issue of conducting
11 casino gaming in Pope County upon the submission to the county clerk of
12 signatures totaling at least ten percent (10%) of the qualified electors who
13 cast a vote in the county for the office of Governor in the last general
14 election in which the office appeared on the ballot.

15 (B) A petition under this subdivision (o)(2) shall be
16 submitted to the county clerk at least four (4) months prior to a general
17 election.

18 (C) If a petition is found by the county clerk to be
19 insufficient, the sponsor of the petition shall be permitted at least thirty
20 (30) days from the date of notification to make a correction or amendment to
21 the petition.

22 (3)(A) If a petition is found to be sufficient, the issue of
23 conducting casino gaming in Pope County shall be considered by the qualified
24 electors of the county at the next following general election.

25 (B) If the legal voters approve conducting casino gaming
26 in Pope County, the Arkansas Racing Commission shall accept applications for
27 a casino license in Pope County.

28 (C) If the legal voters reject conducting casino gaming in
29 Pope County, the Arkansas Racing Commission shall not accept applications for
30 a casino license in Pope County.

31 (4)(A) If conducting casino gaming is approved in Pope County,
32 the Arkansas Racing Commission shall require all casino applicants for a
33 casino license in Pope County to submit either a letter of support from the
34 county judge or a resolution from the quorum court in Pope County and, if the
35 proposed casino is to be located within a city or town, shall also require
36 all casino applicants to include a letter of support from the mayor in the

1 city or town where the applicant is proposing the casino to be located.

2 (B) Letters of support under subdivision (o)(4)(A) of this
3 section shall be from the county judge or quorum court and, if appropriate,
4 the mayor, who are in office at the time of the submission of the
5 application.

6 (5) If an election is held under this subsection, a subsequent
7 election to consider the issue of conducting casino gaming in Pope County
8 shall not be held within ten (10) years of the date of the general election
9 at which the issue was considered.

10 (6) The General Assembly may enact laws necessary to implement
11 this subsection, including without limitations laws concerning the
12 requirements and procedures for an election on the issue of conducting casino
13 gaming in Pope County under this subsection.

14 ~~(p)~~ Franchise holders are not applicants and are not required to
15 submit applications for casino licenses in order to be issued a casino
16 license.

17 ~~(q)~~ No individual, corporation, partnership, association, trust, or
18 other entity may hold more than one (1) casino license in Arkansas.

19 ~~(r)~~ The Arkansas Racing Commission shall issue a renewal casino
20 license within ten (10) days to any licensed casino that complies with the
21 requirements contained in this Amendment, including without limitation the
22 payment of the casino license renewal fee, which shall not exceed ten
23 thousand dollars (\$10,000). Casino licenses shall be renewed every ten (10)
24 years.

25 ~~(s)(1)~~ The Arkansas Racing Commission shall provide an annual
26 amount of at least two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) for compulsive
27 gambling disorder treatment and compulsive gambling disorder educational
28 programs.

29 (2) The Arkansas Racing Commission shall work together with the
30 Department of Human Services to implement the compulsive gambling disorder
31 treatment programs and the compulsive gambling disorder educational programs
32 under this section.

33 (3) The Arkansas Racing Commission may contract with the
34 Department of Human Services for providing all services related to and
35 administration of the compulsive gambling disorder treatment programs and the
36 compulsive gambling disorder educational programs.

1 (4) The Department of Human Services may promulgate rules to
2 administer the compulsive gambling disorder treatment programs and the
3 compulsive gambling disorder educational programs.
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5 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment shall be effective on and
6 after November 9, 2022.
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8 SECTION 3. RETROACTIVITY. This amendment is retroactive to November
9 14, 2018.
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11 SECTION 4. BALLOT TITLE AND POPULAR NAME. When this proposed
12 amendment is submitted to the electors of this state on the general election
13 ballot:

14 (1) The title of this Joint Resolution shall be the ballot
15 title; and

16 (2) The popular name shall be "A Constitutional Amendment to
17 Provide for a Local Option Election Concerning Casino Gaming in Pope County".
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