

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas As Engrossed: H1/16/25 H1/23/25

2 95th General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2025

HOUSE BILL 1042

4

5 By: Representatives A. Collins, D. Garner, T. Shephard, Springer, Gonzales Worthen, Barnett

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For An Act To Be Entitled

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AN ACT TO CREATE THE DIRECT DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2025; TO

10

REPEAL THE ENSURING ACCESS FOR ALL ARKANSANS AND

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VOTER PROTECTION ACT OF 2023; TO AMEND THE PROCEDURE

12

FOR THE FILING OF A BALLOT INITIATIVE PETITION AND

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REFERENDUM PETITION; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING

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STATEWIDE PETITIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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Subtitle

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TO CREATE THE DIRECT DEMOCRACY ACT OF

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2025; TO REPEAL THE ENSURING ACCESS FOR

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ALL ARKANSANS AND VOTER PROTECTION ACT

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OF 2023; AND TO AMEND THE PROCEDURE FOR

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THE FILING OF A BALLOT INITIATIVE

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PETITION AND REFERENDUM PETITION.

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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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27 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

28 This act shall be known and may be cited as "The Direct Democracy Act

29 of 2025".

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31 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-9-126(e) and (f), concerning the count of
32 signatures for initiative petitions or referendum petitions, are repealed.

33 ~~(e) In order to certify a measure for the statewide election ballot,~~
34 ~~the official charged with verifying the signatures on an initiative petition~~
35 ~~or referendum petition shall also verify:~~

36 ~~(1) For a statutory initiative petition or referendum petition,~~



1 ~~that:~~

2 ~~(A) Petitions are filed from at least fifty (50) counties~~
3 ~~of the state; and~~

4 ~~(B) The petitions bear the signature of at least one half~~
5 ~~($\frac{1}{2}$) of the designated percentage of the electors of each county represented~~
6 ~~in subdivision (c)(1)(A) of this section; and~~

7 ~~(2) For an initiative petition for a constitutional amendment,~~
8 ~~that:~~

9 ~~(A) Petitions are filed from at least fifty (50) counties~~
10 ~~of the state; and~~

11 ~~(B) The petitions bear the signature of at least one half~~
12 ~~($\frac{1}{2}$) of the designated percentage of the electors of each county represented~~
13 ~~in subdivision (c)(2)(A) of this section.~~

14 ~~(f) If the requirements of subsection (c) of this section are less~~
15 ~~than the designated number of signatures or counties represented by petitions~~
16 ~~required by the Arkansas Constitution and statutory law in order to certify~~
17 ~~the measure for the ballot and the deadline for filing petitions has passed,~~
18 ~~the official charged with verifying the signatures shall declare the petition~~
19 ~~insufficient and shall not accept and file any additional signatures to cure~~
20 ~~the insufficiency of the petition on its face.~~

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22 */s/A. Collins*

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