

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1222

5 By: Representative Ray
6 By: Senator K. Hammer
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING INITIATIVE
10 PETITIONS AND REFERENDUM PETITIONS; TO REQUIRE THE
11 ATTORNEY GENERAL TO REVIEW BALLOT TITLES FOR
12 CONFLICTS WITH THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND
13 FEDERAL STATUTES; TO BAN SUBMISSION OF MULTIPLE
14 INITIATIVE PETITIONS AND REFERENDUM PETITIONS; AND
15 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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19 TO REQUIRE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO
20 REVIEW BALLOT TITLES FOR CONFLICTS WITH
21 THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND
22 FEDERAL STATUTES; AND TO BAN SUBMISSION
23 OF MULTIPLE INITIATIVE PETITIONS AND
24 REFERENDUM PETITIONS.
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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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28 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-9-107(e), concerning filing of the
29 original draft of an initiative petition or referendum petition before
30 circulation, is amended to read as follows:

31 (e) If, as a result of his or her review of the ballot title and
32 popular name of a proposed initiated act or a proposed amendment to the
33 Arkansas Constitution, the Attorney General determines that the ballot title
34 or the nature of the issue, is presented in such manner that the ballot title
35 would be misleading or designed in such manner that a vote "FOR" the issue
36 would be a vote against the matter or viewpoint that the voter believes



1 himself or herself casting a vote for, or, conversely, that a vote "AGAINST"
 2 the issue would be a vote for a viewpoint that the voter is against, or that
 3 the text of the proposal conflicts with the United States Constitution or a
 4 federal statute, the Attorney General may reject the entire ballot title,
 5 popular name, and petition and state his or her reasons therefor and instruct
 6 the petitioners to redesign the proposed measure and the ballot title and
 7 popular name in a manner that would not be misleading or in conflict with the
 8 United States Constitution or a federal statute.

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 10 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-9-107, concerning filing of the original
 11 draft of an initiative petition or referendum petition before circulation, is
 12 amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

13 (g)(1) A sponsor shall not submit multiple initiative petitions or
 14 referendum petitions that are conflicting measures to the Attorney General
 15 for review, except as follows:

16 (A) If an initiative petition or referendum petition is
 17 certified under this section, a sponsor may submit an initiative petition or
 18 referendum petition that is a conflicting measure with the certified
 19 initiative petition or certified referendum petition after the date of the
 20 next general election following the certification; or

21 (B) If an initiative petition or referendum petition is
 22 rejected under this section, a sponsor may submit an initiative petition or
 23 referendum petition that is a conflicting measure with the rejected
 24 initiative petition or referendum petition.

25 (2) The Attorney General shall reject all initiative petitions
 26 and referendum petitions that are submitted by a sponsor in violation of this
 27 subsection.

28 (3) As used in this subsection, "conflicting measures" means two
 29 (2) or more initiative petitions or referendum petitions that:

30 (A) Cover the same subject matter;

31 (B) Are for the same general purpose; and

32 (C) Contain different language in any part of their full
 33 texts, ballot titles, or popular names.

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