

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

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

2 95th General Assembly

3 Regular Session, 2025

HJR 1002

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5 *Representatives J. Richardson, A. Collins, T. Shephard, Springer*

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

9 AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO REPEAL
10 THE EXCEPTION TO THE PROHIBITION OF SLAVERY AND
11 INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE.

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14

Subtitle

15

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS
16 CONSTITUTION TO REPEAL THE EXCEPTION TO
17 THE PROHIBITION OF SLAVERY AND
18 INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE.

19

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

23

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

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31 SECTION 1. Intent of amendment.

32 (a) Arkansas Constitution, Article 2, § 27, permits slavery and
33 involuntary servitude as a punishment for crime.

34 (b) As the Arkansas Constitution is the moral and legal foundation of
35 our state, abolishing all forms of slavery in the Arkansas Constitution
36 represents the fundamental values held by the citizens of Arkansas.



1 (c) If a prisoner is working, he or she should be compensated for that
2 labor with money or "good time" to aid his or her re-entry into society.

3 (d) The intent of this amendment is to repeal the portion of Arkansas
4 Constitution, Article 2, § 27, allowing slavery and involuntary servitude as
5 a punishment for crime in order to fully abolish slavery in the State of
6 Arkansas and recognize the moral and economic benefits that will result from
7 ending this practice.

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9 SECTION 2. Arkansas Constitution, Article 2, § 27, is amended to read
10 as follows:

11 § 27. Slavery – Standing armies – Military subordinate to civil power.
12 There shall be no slavery in this State, nor involuntary servitude,
13 ~~except as a punishment for crime.~~ No standing army shall be kept in time of
14 peace; the military shall, at all times, be in strict subordination to the
15 civil power; and no soldier shall be quartered in any house, or on any
16 premises, without the consent of the owner, in time of peace; nor in time of
17 war, except in a manner prescribed by law.

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19 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment to the Arkansas
20 Constitution shall be effective on and after January 1, 2027.

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22 SECTION 4. BALLOT TITLE AND POPULAR NAME. When this proposed
23 amendment is submitted to the electors of this state on the general election
24 ballot:

25 (1) The title of this Joint Resolution shall be the ballot
26 title; and

27 (2) The popular name shall be "A Constitutional Amendment to
28 Repeal the Exception to the Prohibition of Slavery and Involuntary
29 Servitude."

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31 */s/J. Richardson*
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