

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 H1/22/25*

2 95th General Assembly

3 Regular Session, 2025

HJR 1002

4

5 *By: Representatives J. Richardson, A. Collins, F. Allen, Barnett, Ennett, K. Ferguson, McGruder, T.*

6 *Shephard, Springer*

7 *By: Senators R. Murdock, J. Scott*

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

10 AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO REPEAL

11 THE EXCEPTION TO THE PROHIBITION OF SLAVERY AND

12 INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE.

13

14

15

Subtitle

16

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS

17

CONSTITUTION TO REPEAL THE EXCEPTION TO

18

THE PROHIBITION OF SLAVERY AND

19

INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE.

20

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL

22 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE SENATE, A MAJORITY OF ALL

23 MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

24

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

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32 SECTION 1. Intent of amendment.

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

35 (b) As the Arkansas Constitution is the moral and legal foundation of
36 our state, abolishing all forms of slavery in the Arkansas Constitution



1 represents the fundamental values held by the citizens of Arkansas.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31
32 */s/J. Richardson*