

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: H2/19/25

95th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2025

SENATE BILL 208

By: Senator K. Hammer

By: Representative Underwood

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING INITIATIVE AND
REFERENDUM PETITIONS; TO REQUIRE A CANVASSER TO VIEW
PHOTO IDENTIFICATION BEFORE OBTAINING A SIGNATURE; TO
DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING INITIATIVE
AND REFERENDUM PETITIONS; TO VIEW A
CANVASSER TO REQUEST PHOTO
IDENTIFICATION BEFORE OBTAINING A
SIGNATURE; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-9-109 is amended to add an additional
subsection to read as follows:

(g)(1) A canvasser who witnesses signatures on a petition part shall
view a copy of a potential petitioner's photo identification to verify the
identity of the potential petitioner before obtaining the signature.

(2) If a canvasser cannot verify the identity of the potential
petitioner, the canvasser shall not obtain a signature from the potential
petitioner.

(3) A canvasser who submits a canvasser affidavit under
subsection (a) of this section swearing that to the best of the affiant's
knowledge and belief each signature is genuine, and that the person signing
is a legal voter, but does not comply with the requirements under subdivision
(g)(1) of this section makes a false statement on a petition verification



1 form.

2 (4) As used in this subsection, "photo identification" means a
3 document or identification card permitted under § 7-1-101(40).

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5 SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this act
6 are declared to be severable and the invalidity of any provision of this act
7 shall not affect other provisions of the act which can be given effect
8 without the invalid provision.

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10 SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and
11 determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the process
12 for citizens to propose initiated acts and amendments to the Arkansas
13 Constitution is critical to a well-functioning democracy in this state; that
14 it is of the utmost importance that the integrity of the initiative process
15 be strengthened through this act so that petitioners and voters maintain a
16 high degree of confidence in the soundness of their right to legislate as
17 citizens of Arkansas; and that this act is immediately necessary because any
18 delay in the implementation of this act would disrupt the initiative process
19 for the 2026 general election, which would have a detrimental effect on the
20 public peace, health, and safety of Arkansas. Therefore, an emergency is
21 declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the
22 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective
23 on:

24 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

25 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
26 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
27 bill; or

28 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
29 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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31 /s/K. Hammer
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34 APPROVED: 3/4/25
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