

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1785

4
5 By: Representative Bryant

For An Act To Be Entitled

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7
8 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS ELECTION LAW; TO ALLOW A
9 CANDIDATE TO WITHDRAW FROM AN ELECTION AT ANY TIME;
10 TO CLARIFY WHEN A CANDIDATE MAY WITHDRAW FROM THE
11 BALLOT; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING RUNOFF ELECTIONS;
12 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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16 TO AMEND ARKANSAS ELECTION LAW; TO ALLOW
17 A CANDIDATE TO WITHDRAW FROM AN ELECTION
18 AT ANY TIME; TO CLARIFY WHEN A CANDIDATE
19 MAY WITHDRAW FROM THE BALLOT; AND TO
20 AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING RUNOFF
21 ELECTIONS.

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23
24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

25
26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-5-106(a), concerning runoff elections for
27 county and municipal officers, is amended to add additional subdivisions to
28 read as follows:

29 (3) A name of a person shall not be certified and shall not be
30 placed on the runoff ballot if prior to the deadline to include a candidate
31 on the runoff ballot a candidate:

32 (A) Notifies the Secretary of State or county clerk in
33 writing, signed by the candidate and acknowledged before an officer
34 authorized to take acknowledgements, of his or her desire to withdraw as a
35 candidate; or

36 (B) Dies.



1 (4) If a candidate withdraws or dies prior to the runoff
 2 election, the remaining candidate shall be declared the winner.

3
 4 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 14-43-304(c), concerning elections of
 5 mayors in cities having mayor-council government, is amended to add
 6 additional subdivisions to read as follows:

7 (3) A name of a person shall not be certified and shall not be
 8 placed on the runoff ballot if prior to the deadline to include a candidate
 9 on the runoff ballot a candidate:

10 (A) Notifies the Secretary of State or county clerk in
 11 writing, signed by the candidate and acknowledged before an officer
 12 authorized to take acknowledgements, of his or her desire to withdraw as a
 13 candidate for the position of mayor; or

14 (B) Dies.

15 (4) If a candidate withdraws or dies prior to the runoff
 16 election, the remaining candidate for the position of mayor shall be declared
 17 the winner.

18
 19 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 14-61-111(b)(3), concerning the selection
 20 of mayor, is amended to add additional subdivisions to read as follows:

21 (C) A name of a person shall not be certified and shall
 22 not be placed on the runoff ballot if prior to the deadline to include a
 23 candidate on the runoff ballot a candidate:

24 (i) Notifies the Secretary of State or county clerk
 25 in writing, signed by the candidate and acknowledged before an officer
 26 authorized to take acknowledgements, of his or her desire to withdraw as a
 27 candidate for the position of mayor; or

28 (ii) Dies.

29 (D) If a candidate withdraws or dies prior to the runoff
 30 election, the remaining candidate for the position of mayor shall be declared
 31 the winner.