

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE REQUIREMENTS TO
FORM A NEW POLITICAL PARTY; AND TO AMEND THE CRITERIA FOR
RECOGNITION OF A POLITICAL PARTY.

Subtitle

THE POLITICAL PARTY RECOGNITION ACT

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-7-205 (c), concerning the nomination of candidates by a new political party, is amended to read as follows:

- (4) If the new party maintains party status by obtaining three percent (3%) of the total votes cast ~~for the office of Governor or nominees for presidential electors~~ in any statewide election at the first general election after certification, the new political party shall nominate candidates in the party primary as set forth in § 7-7-101 et seq.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-1-101 (27) defining a political party, is amended to read as follows:

(A) “Political party” means any group of voters that ~~at~~ in either of the last two preceding general elections ~~polled for its candidate for Governor in the state or nominees for presidential electors~~ any statewide election at least three percent (3%) of the entire vote cast for that office.

(B) A group of electors shall not assume a name or designation that is so similar in the opinion of the Secretary of State to that of an existing political party as to confuse or mislead the voters at an election.

(3) When any political party fails to obtain least three percent (3%) of the total votes cast ~~at an election for the office of Governor or nominees for presidential electors~~ in at least one statewide election in two successive general elections, it shall cease to be a political party;

(4) For the purposes of this section, a “statewide election” includes votes for presidential electors, United States Senate, Governor, other Constitutional Office or any other partisan office that is voted upon throughout the state.