



# Newsletter From Rep. Tara Shephard District 79

March 10, 2025

## Summary for March 10, 2025

On Monday, the House passed several bills related to elections and referendums.

**SB188** requires the Secretary of State to post all approved ballot titles and the full text of proposed measures on their website.

**SB209** stipulates that the Secretary of State will not count signatures collected by a canvasser if it's determined that the canvasser violated Arkansas laws related to canvassing, perjury, forgery, or fraudulent practices.

**SB210** mandates that a signer must read the petition's ballot title in the presence of a canvasser.

**SB296** states that any additional polling sites for early voting must be approved by a unanimous vote of the county board of election commissioners.

**SB272** requires that voter registration application forms be delivered with the blank party affiliation field.

The House also passed **HB1583**, which mandates coverage for acquired brain injury and allows DHS to seek a waiver to provide needed services to beneficiaries under the Arkansas Medicaid Program.

**HB1429** allows interpreting physicians to interpret diagnostic mammograms via telemedicine, expanding access for rural hospitals.

**HB1641** amends the harassment law to include the use of a tracking device as an offense.

**HB1628** adds second-degree sexual assault to the list of offenses for which a court may issue an extended post-conviction no-contact order.

**HB1563** makes knowingly exposing someone to fentanyl a restricted release felony, requiring the offender to serve at least 85% of their sentence.

**HB1517** establishes the "Earned Wage Access Services Act," providing consumer protections for earned wage access services.

