

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to law as it existed prior to the 82nd General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 82nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1999
4

As Engrossed: H2/22/99 S3/3/99

A Bill

Act 658 of 1999
HOUSE BILL 1446

5 By: Representative Madison
6 By: Senator Hill
7
8

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO CREATE THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES POLITICAL
FREEDOM ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

"AN ACT TO CREATE THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
POLITICAL FREEDOM ACT."

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

19 SECTION 1. This act shall create the Public Employees Political Freedom
20 Act of 1999.
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22 SECTION 2. (a) For purposes of this act:

23 (1) "Elected public official" shall mean the Governor, Lieutenant
24 Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer of State, Auditor of State, Attorney
25 General, Commissioner of State Lands, member of the Arkansas Senate and member
26 of the Arkansas House of Representatives;

27 (2) "Public employee" shall mean any person providing services
28 for the State of Arkansas, counties, municipal corporations, or other
29 political subdivision of this state for which compensation is paid; and

30 (3) "Public employer" shall mean the State of Arkansas and each
31 political subdivision thereof, as defined in § 21-5-603(b).

32 (b) Public employees shall not be prohibited from communicating with an
33 elected public official concerning matters related to the public employee's
34 job, except for matters exempted under § 25-19-105.
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36 SECTION 3. (a) It shall be unlawful for any public employer to

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1 discipline, threaten to discipline, to reprimand, either orally or written, or
2 to place any notation in a public employee's personnel file disciplining or
3 reprimanding the employee, or otherwise discriminate against a public employee
4 because the public employee exercised the right to communicate with an elected
5 public official as granted under this act.

6 (b) Any person willfully violating the provisions of the Act shall be
7 deemed guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

8 (c) A public employer shall not be prohibited from disciplining an
9 employee who has intentionally made untrue allegations to an elected official
10 concerning matters related to the public employee's job.

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12 SECTION 4. All provisions of this Act of a general and permanent nature
13 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
14 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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16 SECTION 5. If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to
17 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
18 other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without
19 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
20 Act are declared to be severable.

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22 SECTION 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are
23 hereby repealed.

24 /s/ Madison

APPROVED: 3/17/1999n