

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015
4

As Engrossed: S3/18/15

A Bill

SENATE BILL 995

5 By: Senators Elliott, Bledsoe, L. Chesterfield, J. Hendren
6 By: Representative M. Hodges
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF
10 WORKFORCE SERVICES AND OTHER RELEVANT STATE AGENCIES
11 TO COOPERATE WITH PROFESSIONAL BOARDS, SOCIETIES, AND
12 ORGANIZATIONS; TO ALLOW THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO
13 ASSESS ARKANSAS'S PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDS FOR
14 PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE OR
15 SKILLS IN DEGREED FIELDS OF STUDY AND WHO RENDER
16 SPECIALIZED SERVICES; TO IDENTIFY "PROFESSIONALS OF
17 NECESSITY" TO ENSURE A MIDDLE-CLASS STANDARD OF
18 LIVING IN EVERY ARKANSAS COMMUNITY; TO EXPLORE
19 STRATEGIES THAT WILL ENCOURAGE "PROFESSIONALS OF
20 NECESSITY" TO LIVE AND WORK IN EVERY ARKANSAS
21 COMMUNITY ESPECIALLY THOSE COMMUNITIES THAT ARE
22 UNDERSERVED; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE STATE
23 GOVERNMENT WORKFORCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
24

Subtitle

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27 TO REQUIRE CERTAIN STATE AGENCIES TO
28 COOPERATE WITH PROFESSIONAL ENTITIES; AND
29 TO ASSESS THE NEED FOR PROFESSIONALS WITH
30 SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS WHO CAN
31 RENDER SPECIALIZED SERVICES TO
32 UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES.
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35 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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1 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative intent.

2 The purpose of this act is to identify administrative and legislative
3 action that can be used to encourage professionals of necessity to reside and
4 work in every Arkansas community, especially those that are underprivileged
5 and underserved.

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7 SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Definitions.

8 As used in this act:

9 (1) "Professional board" means a board, agency, committee,
10 commission, department, office, or other authority of the Arkansas state
11 government that is charged with the duty, power, or responsibility to
12 license, register, certify, or otherwise permit the practice of professionals
13 to work in a designated field; and

14 (2) "Professional of necessity" means a professional who:

15 (A) Renders specialized services;

16 (B) Has specialized knowledge or skill in a degreed field
17 of study; or

18 (C) Has derived specialized knowledge or skill from formal
19 education or research.

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21 SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Duties of the Department of Workforce
22 Services.

23 (a) The Department of Workforce Services shall conduct meetings with
24 or gather information from the various professional boards to achieve the
25 following:

26 (1) Identify the communities of this state that are underserved
27 by professionals of necessity;

28 (2) Assess the need for professionals of necessity to reside and
29 work in underprivileged and underserved Arkansas communities;

30 (3) Explore strategies to encourage professionals of necessity
31 to live and work in underprivileged and underserved Arkansas communities; and

32 (4) Recommend administrative and legislative action that may be
33 taken to encourage professionals of necessity to live and work in
34 underprivileged and underserved Arkansas communities.

35 (b) No later than November 15, 2016, the Department of Workforce
36 Services shall report its findings under subsection (a) of this section to

1 the:

2 (1) House Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs
3 and Senate Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs;

4 (2) House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic
5 Development and Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic
6 Development;

7 (3) President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and

8 (4) Speaker of the House of Representatives.

9 (c) Upon request, a professional board shall cooperate and assist the
10 Department of Workforce Services in furtherance of this act.

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12 /s/Elliott

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15 **APPROVED: 04/01/2015**

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