

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

SUBJECT: Rules Pertaining to Septic Tank Cleaners

DESCRIPTION: These rules set standards for the business of cleaning and transportation of septic tanks in Arkansas. The proposed amendments to the existing rules are to comply with Acts 137 and 457 of 2023 regarding military licensure and automatic licensure for out of state licensees.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public hearing was held on this rule. The public comment period expired on January 30, 2024. The agency indicated that it received no public comments.

The proposed effective date is April 1, 2024.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The agency indicated that this rule has no financial impact.

LEGAL AUTHORIZATION: The Department of Health has authority to promulgate rules for the administration of Title 17, Chapter 45 of the Arkansas Code, addressing septic tank cleaners. *See* Ark. Code Ann. § 17-45-102. These rules implement Acts 137 and 457 of 2023.

Act 137, sponsored by Senator Ricky Hill, amended the Arkansas Occupational Licensing of Uniformed Service Members, Veterans, and Spouses Act of 2021, added consideration of national certifications toward initial occupational licensure and extended the application to spouses, and eliminated the one-year limit for veterans to apply service education, training, or certifications toward initial occupational licensure.

Act 457, also sponsored by Senator Hill, created the Automatic Occupational Licensure for Out-of-State Licensure Act and authorized occupational licensing entities to provide for automatic occupational licensure for new residents who are licensed in another state, territory, or district of the United States.

**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR FILING PROPOSED RULES WITH
THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

DEPARTMENT _____
 BOARD/COMMISSION _____
 BOARD/COMMISSION DIRECTOR _____
 CONTACT PERSON _____
 ADDRESS _____
 PHONE NO. _____ EMAIL _____
 NAME OF PRESENTER(S) AT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING _____
 PRESENTER EMAIL(S) _____

INSTRUCTIONS

In order to file a proposed rule for legislative review and approval, please submit this Legislative Questionnaire and Financial Impact Statement, and attach (1) a summary of the rule, describing what the rule does, the rule changes being proposed, and the reason for those changes; (2) both a markup and clean copy of the rule; and (3) all documents required by the Questionnaire.

If the rule is being filed for permanent promulgation, please email these items to the attention of Rebecca Miller-Rice, miller-ricer@blr.arkansas.gov, for submission to the Administrative Rules Subcommittee.

If the rule is being filed for emergency promulgation, please email these items to the attention of Director Marty Garrity, garritym@blr.arkansas.gov, for submission to the Executive Subcommittee.

Please answer each question completely using layman terms.

1. What is the official title of this rule?

2. What is the subject of the proposed rule? _____
3. Is this rule being filed under the emergency provisions of the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act? Yes No

If yes, please attach the statement required by Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204(c)(1).

If yes, will this emergency rule be promulgated under the permanent provisions of the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act? Yes No

4. Is this rule being filed for permanent promulgation? Yes No

If yes, was this rule previously reviewed and approved under the emergency provisions of the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act? Yes No

If yes, what was the effective date of the emergency rule? _____

On what date does the emergency rule expire? _____

5. Is this rule required to comply with a *federal* statute, rule, or regulation? Yes No

If yes, please provide the federal statute, rule, and/or regulation citation.

6. Is this rule required to comply with a *state* statute or rule? Yes No

If yes, please provide the state statute and/or rule citation.

7. Are two (2) rules being repealed in accord with Executive Order 23-02? Yes No

If yes, please list the rules being repealed.

If no, please explain.

8. Is this a new rule? Yes No

Does this repeal an existing rule? Yes No

If yes, the proposed repeal should be designated by strikethrough. If it is being replaced with a new rule, please attach both the proposed rule to be repealed and the replacement rule.

Is this an amendment to an existing rule? Yes No

If yes, all changes should be indicated by strikethrough and underline. In addition, please be sure to label the markup copy clearly as the markup.

9. What is the state law that grants the agency its rulemaking authority for the proposed rule, outside of the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act? Please provide the specific Arkansas Code citation(s), including subsection(s).

10. Is the proposed rule the result of any recent legislation by the Arkansas General Assembly?
Yes No

If yes, please provide the year of the act(s) and act number(s).

11. What is the reason for this proposed rule? Why is it necessary?

12. Please provide the web address by which the proposed rule can be accessed by the public as provided in Ark. Code Ann. § 25-19-108(b)(1).

13. Will a public hearing be held on this proposed rule? Yes No

If yes, please complete the following:

Date: _____

Time: _____

Place: _____

Please be sure to advise Bureau Staff if this information changes for any reason.

14. On what date does the public comment period expire for the permanent promulgation of the rule? Please provide the specific date. _____

15. What is the proposed effective date for this rule? _____

16. Please attach (1) a copy of the notice required under Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204(a)(1) and (2) proof of the publication of that notice.

17. Please attach proof of filing the rule with the Secretary of State, as required by Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204(e)(1)(A).

18. Please give the names of persons, groups, or organizations that you anticipate will comment on these rules. Please also provide their position (for or against), if known.

19. Is the rule expected to be controversial? Yes No

If yes, please explain.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS COMPLETELY.

DEPARTMENT _____
BOARD/COMMISSION _____
PERSON COMPLETING THIS STATEMENT _____
TELEPHONE NO. _____ **EMAIL** _____

To comply with Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204(e), please complete the Financial Impact Statement and email it with the questionnaire, summary, markup and clean copy of the rule, and other documents. Please attach additional pages, if necessary.

TITLE OF THIS RULE _____

1. Does this proposed, amended, or repealed rule have a financial impact?
Yes No

2. Is the rule based on the best reasonably obtainable scientific, technical, economic, or other evidence and information available concerning the need for, consequences of, and alternatives to the rule?
Yes No

3. In consideration of the alternatives to this rule, was this rule determined by the agency to be the least costly rule considered? Yes No

If no, please explain:

(a) how the additional benefits of the more costly rule justify its additional cost;

(b) the reason for adoption of the more costly rule;

(c) whether the reason for adoption of the more costly rule is based on the interests of public health, safety, or welfare, and if so, how; and

(d) whether the reason for adoption of the more costly rule is within the scope of the agency’s statutory authority, and if so, how.

4. If the purpose of this rule is to implement a *federal* rule or regulation, please state the following:
 - (a) What is the cost to implement the federal rule or regulation?

Current Fiscal Year

General Revenue _____
Federal Funds _____
Cash Funds _____
Special Revenue _____
Other (Identify) _____

Total _____

Next Fiscal Year

General Revenue _____
Federal Funds _____
Cash Funds _____
Special Revenue _____
Other (Identify) _____

Total _____

(b) What is the additional cost of the state rule?

Current Fiscal Year

General Revenue _____
Federal Funds _____
Cash Funds _____
Special Revenue _____
Other (Identify) _____

Total _____

Next Fiscal Year

General Revenue _____
Federal Funds _____
Cash Funds _____
Special Revenue _____
Other (Identify) _____

Total _____

5. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to any private individual, private entity, or private business subject to the proposed, amended, or repealed rule? Please identify those subject to the rule, and explain how they are affected.

Current Fiscal Year

\$ _____

Next Fiscal Year

\$ _____

6. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to a state, county, or municipal government to implement this rule? Is this the cost of the program or grant? Please explain how the government is affected.

Current Fiscal Year

\$ _____

Next Fiscal Year

\$ _____

7. With respect to the agency's answers to Questions #5 and #6 above, is there a new or increased cost or obligation of at least one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per year to a private individual, private entity, private business, state government, county government, municipal government, or to two (2) or more of those entities combined?

Yes No

If yes, the agency is required by Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204(e)(4) to file written findings at the time of filing the financial impact statement. The written findings shall be filed simultaneously with the financial impact statement and shall include, without limitation, the following:

- (1) a statement of the rule's basis and purpose;
- (2) the problem the agency seeks to address with the proposed rule, including a statement of whether a rule is required by statute;
- (3) a description of the factual evidence that:
 - (a) justifies the agency's need for the proposed rule; and
 - (b) describes how the benefits of the rule meet the relevant statutory objectives and justify the rule's costs;
- (4) a list of less costly alternatives to the proposed rule and the reasons why the alternatives do not adequately address the problem to be solved by the proposed rule;
- (5) a list of alternatives to the proposed rule that were suggested as a result of public comment and the reasons why the alternatives do not adequately address the problem to be solved by the proposed rule;
- (6) a statement of whether existing rules have created or contributed to the problem the agency seeks to address with the proposed rule and, if existing rules have created or contributed to the problem, an explanation of why amendment or repeal of the rule creating or contributing to the problem is not a sufficient response; and
- (7) an agency plan for review of the rule no less than every ten (10) years to determine whether, based upon the evidence, there remains a need for the rule including, without limitation, whether:
 - (a) the rule is achieving the statutory objectives;
 - (b) the benefits of the rule continue to justify its costs; and
 - (c) the rule can be amended or repealed to reduce costs while continuing to achieve the statutory objectives.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The Arkansas Department of Health is accepting public comments on the Rules Pertaining to Septic Tank Cleaners from Friday, December 29th, 2023, until 4:30 p.m. January 30th, 2024. The comment period is provided to allow interested parties and the public to provide comments. The proposed changes to the Rule are to align it with Act 137 and Act 457 of the 2023 General Session of the Arkansas Legislature. The proposed rule revision with a summary of changes can be viewed online at <https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/proposed-amendment-to-existing-rules> or you may request a copy from our office at 501-661-2171.

Comments on the proposed changes can also be mailed to Arkansas Department of Health, Comments/Slot 46, 4815 West Markham, Little Rock Arkansas, 72205, or emailed to ADH.EHPrulecomments@Arkansas.gov.

Arkansas Department of Health
Rules Pertaining to Septic Tank Cleaners



Promulgated under the authority of:

Act 71 of 1973 as amended

Ark. Code Ann. § 17-45-101, et seq.

And

Act 96 of 1913

Ark. Code Ann. § 20-7-101, et seq.

Effective Date:

~~May 27, 2022~~

Table of Contents

SECTION I AUTHORITY.....	2
SECTION II DEFINITIONS.....	2
SECTION III COMPLIANCE.....	4
SECTION IV EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS.....	4
SECTION V DISPOSAL.....	5
SECTION VI LICENSEE RESPONSIBILITIES.....	7
SECTION VII LICENSE REQUIRED.....	7
SECTION VIII RECIPROCITY AND LICENSURE (A.C.A. § 17-1-108(C)(D)(I)(A) AND A.C.A. § 17-1-106) ...	8
SECTION IX PENALTIES.....	14
SECTION X SEVERABILITY.....	14
SECTION XI REPEAL.....	14
CERTIFICATION.....	15

SECTION I AUTHORITY

The following Rules Pertaining to Septic Tank Cleaning Operations Within the State of Arkansas are duly adopted and promulgated by the Arkansas State Board of Health pursuant to the laws of the State of Arkansas including, Act 71 of 1973 as amended (Ark. Code Ann. § 17-45-101-105) and Act 96 of 1913 (Ark. Code Ann. § 20-7-101, et seq.).

SECTION II DEFINITIONS

- (A) APPROVED. Acceptable to the Department following a determination of compliance with appropriate public health and environmental standards.
- (B) AUTHORIZED AGENT. The Environmental Health Specialist assigned to the County by the Department.
- [\(C\) AUTOMATIC LICENSURE. The granting of the occupational licensure without an individual having met occupational licensure requirements provided under the Arkansas Code or by other provisions in these Rules.](#)
- [\(D\) AUTOMATIC OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE. The granting of occupational licensure to an applicant who establishes residency within this state without the individual's having met occupational licensure requirements under Title 17 of the Arkansas Code or by these Rules.](#)
- ~~(C)~~(E) BOUND RECORD. A tamper resistant book with numbered, non-removable pages with entries made with indelible ink.
- ~~(D)~~(F) THE DEPARTMENT. The Arkansas Department of Health or its authorized agent.

- ~~(E)~~(G) EQUIPMENT. All tanks, devices, tools and implements used in the cleaning or pumping of septic tanks, holding tanks, marine sanitation devices, portable toilets, or other sewage handling facilities
- ~~(F)~~(H) HOLDING TANK. A septic tank, marine sanitation device, portable toilet, or other device used for the temporary storage of untreated human waste.
- ~~(G)~~(I) LAND APPLICATION. A method of septage disposal utilizing either surface spreading, subsurface injection, burial or other process approved by the Department.
- ~~(H)~~(J) LICENSEE. The licensed owner or operator of a business, firm, or corporation engaged in the business of cleaning septic tanks, marine sanitation devices, portable toilets, and or the transporting of septage or sewage.
- ~~(H)~~(K) MARINE SANITATION DEVICE. Any device on board a vessel designed to retain, treat, or discharge human body waste.
- ~~(H)~~(L) PORTABLE TOILET. Any equipment used to receive and retain human waste prior to its delivery to a sewage treatment facility.
- ~~(K)~~(M) PUMPER VEHICLE. Any truck, trailer, boat, tank or combination thereof used to transport septage or sewage.
- ~~(L)~~(N) SCUM. The partially submerged mat of floating solids that forms at the surface of septic tanks or sewage handling facilities.
- ~~(M)~~(O) SEPTAGE. The liquid, scum and sludge from a septic tank or sewage handling facility excluding biosolids from a municipal or publicly owned treatment facility.
- ~~(N)~~(P) SEPTIC TANK CLEANER. Any person, firm, corporation, or association which cleans septic tanks, marine sanitation devices, portable toilets, or transports septage or sewage within the State of Arkansas.
- ~~(O)~~(Q) SEWAGE. The contents of holding tanks, marine sanitation devices, portable toilets, or other tanks used for the storage of human waste.
- (R) SLUDGE. The accumulation of settled, solid material in the bottom of a septic tank or sewage handling facility.
- (S) UNIFORMED SERVICE MEMBER. An active or reserve component member of the United States Air Force, United States Army, United States Coast Guard, United States Marine Corps, United States Navy, United States Space Force, or National Guard; an active component member of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps; or an active or reserve component member of the United States Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service.
- ~~(P)~~(T) UNIFORMED SERVICE VETERAN. A former member of the United States uniformed services discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

SECTION III COMPLIANCE

No person, firm, corporation, partnership, or association shall be engaged in the business of septic tank cleaning or the transportation of septage or sewage for compensation, unless they are in compliance with these rules.

SECTION IV EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS

- (A) Tanks. The minimum tank size for tank pumper vehicles is 1000 gallons. Portable toilet cleaning vehicles and marine cleaning vessels are exempt from the 1000 minimum size requirement. All tanks used for the transportation of septage or sewage shall be constructed of metal throughout that is welded, water-tight and splash-proof. The firm or owner's name, license number, and the capacity of the tank shall be shown conspicuously on each side of the tank in letters at least 4 inches in height. A gauge or measuring device shall be provided on each tank to adequately measure the contents of the tank at varying depths. Before the initial licensing, a certified weight slip shall be filed with the Department showing the weight of the empty tank and the weight of the tank when full of water. Any changes or modifications to the tank shall require the submission of current weight slips to the Department.
- (B) Pumps. Pumps utilized for cleaning septic tanks or sewage treatment facilities shall be adequate to lift the scum, sludge, and liquid contents of the septic tank into the tank pumper vehicle. Pumps shall be so constructed that there is no leakage, spillage or splashing onto the outer surfaces of the tank or equipment. A tight metal hood shall be provided over the pump on all diaphragm or similar types of open pumps.
- (C) Valves. A leak proof gate valve with a minimum of 2-1/2 inches in size shall be provided on each tank for the discharge of the contents while being emptied.
- (D) Hoses. A discharge hose compatible with the discharge valve shall be provided for each vehicle. This hose shall have sufficient length to discharge into a manhole or near the ground surface when land application is utilized. The hoses used to pump the contents of septic tanks or holding tanks shall be of an adequate length and have the proper fittings to preclude spillage or leakage.
- (E) Racks. All racks used for the carrying of equipment on the vehicle shall be made of metal. All parts of the truck and equipment shall be easily cleanable. No pockets shall be permitted where accumulation of septage or sewage may result.
- (F) Marine cleaning vessels. Vessels designed and licensed to pump and transport marine wastes shall be equipped with a welded, leak and splash-proof tank constructed of metal or other approved material. All hoses, valves and fittings shall be designed and used in a manner that prevents the leakage or spillage of marine wastes into the environment. Each marine cleaning vessel shall be equipped with or provided with the necessary pumps, hoses, valves, fittings, and other devices necessary to transfer the marine wastes to the land vehicle or facility where the marine wastes will be transported to the receiving sewage treatment plant.
- (G) Portable toilet cleaning vehicles. Vehicles used for the cleaning and maintenance of portable toilets shall be equipped with a welded, leak and splash-proof metal tank for the transport of waste to the receiving treatment facility. The vehicle shall also be equipped with separate tanks

for wash down solution and disinfectant. Additionally, each portable toilet cleaning vehicle shall be provided with the hoses, brushes, and other equipment necessary to clean, service, and sanitize portable toilets.

SECTION V DISPOSAL

- (A) The disposal of sewage or septage by any method that violates any state or federal law or rule is strictly prohibited. The wastes from holding tanks, portable toilets, and marine sanitation devices shall not be land applied. These wastes shall be disposed of in a permitted and properly operated sewage treatment facility.
- (B) LAND APPLICATION DISPOSAL SITES. The land application of septage at any site not previously inspected, approved, and on file with the department shall be a violation of these rules. To obtain approval for land application of septage, each site shall be inspected by an authorized agent prior to licensing. A notarized statement from the landowner granting permission for the land application of septage shall be obtained for each disposal site. The licensee shall furnish a legal description, topographical map, and vicinity map for each disposal site. The maps shall reflect pertinent information pertaining to the number of acres, GPS coordinates, the location and distance to property lines, nearby homes, roads, ditches, wells, utilities, gullies, streams and land use (cropland, pastures, etc.) relevant to septage disposal. Every five (5) years the department will assess approved land application sites and obtain soil samples to verify compliance with these rules.
- (C) PROPER SEPTAGE DISPOSAL AT LAND APPLICATION SITES. Septage shall be evenly distributed across the site in a manner that prevents surface runoff, ponding, or the accumulation of septage more than one inch in depth. To achieve even distribution, the vehicle applying the septage shall remain in motion and utilize a splash plate or other approved method of dispersal. There shall be no disposal within 1000 feet of any place of habitation; 500 feet of any public road; 100 feet of any rock outcrops or sink holes; 50 feet of property lines; 100 feet of streams, lakes, ponds, springs, wells or water supplies.

Options for the land application of septage include:

- (1) The pH of the septage shall be raised to a minimum of twelve (12) or higher by the addition of an alkali such as hydrated lime or quick lime, and without adding more alkali, the septage shall remain at a pH of twelve (12) or higher for not less than thirty (30) minutes prior to being land applied. OR
- (2) Septage shall be injected below the surface of the soil. When septage is injected below the surface of the soil, no significant amount of septage shall be present on the surface of that soil after one (1) hour. OR
- (3) Septage shall be evenly spread over the surface of the soil and incorporated into the surface of that soil within six (6) hours of application.

Septage shall not be applied in excess of the below described annual application rates for nitrogen and phosphorus.

- (1) During any 365-day period, the amount of domestic septage applied to a land application site shall not exceed the annual application rate calculated using the equation $AAR = N \div 0.0026$, where:

AAR = Annual application rate in gallons per acre per 365-day period

N = Amount of nitrogen in pounds per acre per 365-day period needed by the crop or vegetation grown

- (2) Annual septage land application shall not exceed the phosphorus rates for the crop or vegetation grown and shall not be applied in rates that result in phytotoxicity.

The septage being land applied shall be screened and shall contain no paper, plastic, or other solid material measuring more than one-half inch in any dimension. Grease and/or the contents of grease traps shall not be disposed of at any land application site approved under these rules.

Sites demonstrating a slope of 15% or greater are not suitable for land application. Land application shall be avoided when the soil is saturated, frozen, covered with snow, during rainy weather or when precipitation is in the immediate forecast.

Licensees utilizing land application sites only, for the disposal of septage must have available a storage tank sufficient to store the septage collected during periods when climatic conditions preclude land application. These tanks shall be provided with a spill containment berm.

Food crops with harvested parts above the ground surface shall not be harvested for fourteen (14) months after the last application of septage. Food crops with harvested parts that are at or below the ground surface shall not be harvested for thirty-eight (38) months after the last application of septage. At approved application sites, human contact shall be restricted for 30 days after application, and no grazing or harvesting of hay, silage or grain shall commence for 60 days.

For each land application site, the licensee shall maintain a permanent, bound site application record indicating each application of septage, the volume of septage applied, the date it was applied, the crop to which it was applied, a description of the vector and pathogen reduction method used, the method of land application used, and the name of the person applying the septage. These records shall be kept for a minimum of five years and shall be made available to both state and federal regulators on request.

- (D) DISPOSAL INTO SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS. A current contract with each sewer improvement district and / or sewage treatment facility where the licensee disposes of sewage and / or septage shall be on file with the Department. The disposal of sewage or septage at a site or facility not on file with the Department is a violation of these rules.
- (E) DISPOSAL OF HOLDING TANK, MARINE SANITATION DEVICE, AND PORTABLE TOILET CONTENTS. The contents of holding tanks, marine sanitation devices, and portable toilets is considered untreated sewage and shall not be land-applied under any circumstances. The only acceptable means of disposal for these wastes is into a public sewer system with which the licensee has a contract.

SECTION VI LICENSEE RESPONSIBILITIES.

- (A) The licensee shall pass an examination as prescribed by the Department which will reflect the licensee's knowledge in the areas of diseases transmitted by septage and sewage, vector and pathogen reduction, applicable federal and state laws, stream pollution, land application, and permitting requirements.
- (B) The licensee shall be responsible for the actions of his employees, partners, associates and co-owners regarding septic tank cleaning and the proper disposal of septage and sewage.
- (C) Each licensee shall be responsible for displaying, on each licensed vehicle, a decal issued by the Department at the initial licensing. This decal shall be located on the tank of the pumper vehicle adjacent to the firm or owner's name, license number and tank capacity. When the annual re-licensing requirements are met, renewal decals will be issued by the Department.
- (D) The annual license fee is \$25.00. Licenses shall be issued with an effective date of July 1 of each year and will expire one year from the effective date. In addition to the annual license fee, an annual fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) will be charged for every pumper vehicle above the first vehicle owned by the licensee or the business.
- (E) Applications for renewal shall include current inspection reports for each pumper vehicle, notarized permission statements from all receiving landowners, and contracts with all sewer improvement districts and treatment facilities where sewage and/ or septage will be disposed. Renewal applications shall be submitted to the Department by July 1 of each year. The renewal request shall include any equipment changes or modifications made to pumper vehicles during the previous license period.
- (F) The annual vehicle inspection shall be conducted by the authorized agent in the county of the licensee's or firm's residence or place of business. Inspection of each pumper vehicle shall be conducted with the tank filled. The required equipment shall be inspected at this time. The owners of pumper vehicles which are located outside of Arkansas shall contact the authorized agent of the nearest or most conveniently located Arkansas county and arrange a time and place for inspection.
- (G) The owner or employee of a business licensed under these Rules shall, upon performing any work for which compensation is received, place his name and the number of the license issued to the business on the customer's receipt.
- (H) Each pumper vehicle shall maintain and have on board a bound service record listing the operators name, the date and location of each septic tank, treatment plant, holding tank, marine sanitation device, portable toilet, or other sewage handling facility pumped, the vector and pathogen reduction method used, the date and location of disposal. Other methods of record keeping will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

SECTION VII LICENSE REQUIRED

No person, firm, corporation, partnership, or association shall engage in the business of septic tank cleaning or the transportation of septage, sewage or sludge for compensation without a valid

license as provided herein. Proceedings regarding a license shall be conducted pursuant to the Department's rules of administrative procedure. No part of this rule authorizes a licensee or any of his assigns to construct, repair, or modify an individual sewage system without that person first obtaining a valid Septic Tank Cleaner's License.

- (A) Pursuant to Act 725 of 2021, an applicant may receive a waiver of the initial licensure fee, if eligible. Eligible applicants are applicants who:
 - (1) Are receiving assistance through the Arkansas, or current state of residence equivalent, Medicaid Program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (SSNP), the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (TEA), or the Lifeline Assistance Program (LAP);
 - (2) Were approved for unemployment within the last twelve (12) months; or
 - (3) Have an income that does not exceed two hundred percent (200%) of the federal poverty income guidelines.
- (B) Applicants shall provide documentation showing their receipt of benefits from the appropriate State Agency.
 - (1) For Medicaid, SNAP, SSNP, TEA, or LAP, documentation from the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS), or current state of residence equivalent agency;
 - (2) For unemployment benefits approval in the last twelve (12) months, the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, or current state of residence equivalent agency; or
 - (3) 3For proof of income, copies of all United States Internal Revenue Service Forms indicating applicant's total personal income for the most recent tax year e.g., "W2," "1099," etc.
- (C) Applicants shall attest that the documentation provided under (b) is a true and correct copy and fraudulent or fraudulently obtained documentation shall be grounds for denial or revocation of license.

SECTION VIII RECIPROCITY AND LICENSURE (A.C.A. § 17-1-108(C)(D)(I)(A)) AND A.C.A. § 17-1-106)

- (A) Required qualifications.
 - (1) An applicant applying for reciprocal licensure shall meet the following requirements.
 - (2)
 - (i) The applicant shall hold a substantially similar license in another United States jurisdiction.
 - (ii) A license from another state is substantially similar to an Arkansas license if the other state's licensure qualifications require:

- (a) The applicant shall hold his or her occupational licensure in good standing;
- (b) The applicant shall not have had a license revoked for:
 - A) An act of bad faith; or
 - B) A violation of law, rule, or ethics; and
- (3) The applicant shall not hold a suspended or probationary license in a United States jurisdiction.
- (4) Required documentation.
 - (i) An applicant shall submit a fully executed application, the required fee, and the documentation described below.
 - (ii) As evidence that the applicant's license from another jurisdiction is substantially similar to Arkansas, the applicant shall submit the following information:
 - (a) Evidence of current and active licensure in that state.
 - A) The Department of Health may verify this information online if the jurisdiction at issue provides primary source verification on its website or by telephone to the other's state's licensing board; and
 - (b) Evidence that the other state's licensure requirements match those listed in this subsection.
 - A) The department may verify this information online or by telephone to the other's state's licensing group.
 - (c) To demonstrate that the applicant meets the requirements in this subsection the applicant shall provide the department with:
 - A) The names of all states in which the applicant is currently licensed or has been previously licensed; and
 - B) Letters of good standing or other information from each state in which the applicant is currently or has ever been licensed showing that the applicant:
 - 1) Has not had his or her license revoked for the reasons listed in this subsection; and
 - 2) Does not hold a license on suspended or probationary status as described in this subsection.
 - (d) The department may verify this information:
 - A) Online, if the jurisdiction at issue provides primary source verification on its website; or

B) By telephone to the other's state's licensing department.

(B) Temporary and provisional license.

- (1) The department shall issue a temporary and provisional license immediately upon receipt of the application, the required fee, and the documentation required under this section.
- (2) The temporary and provisional license shall be effective for least ninety (90) days or until the department makes a decision on the application, unless the department determines that the applicant does not meet the requirements in the reciprocity subdivisions in this section in which case the provisional and temporary license shall be immediately revoked.
- (3) An applicant may:
 - (i) Provide the rest of the documentation required above in order to receive a license; or
 - (ii) Only provide the information necessary for the issuance of a temporary and provisional license.
- (4) License for person from state that does not license profession, Acts 2019, No. 1011, Arkansas Code § 17-1-108(d)(2).
- (5) Required documentation.
 - (i) An applicant shall submit a fully executed application, the required fee, and the documentation described below.
 - (ii) Passing the required test for Septic Tank Cleaner.
- (6) Reciprocity and state-specific education — Acts 2019, No. 1011, Arkansas Code § 17-1-108(d)(3). The department shall require an applicant to take the test if the applicant is licensed in another state that does not offer reciprocity to Arkansas residents that is similar to reciprocity provided to out-of-state applicants in Arkansas Code § 17-1-108.
- (7) Reciprocity in another state will be considered similar to reciprocity under Arkansas Code § 17-1-108 if the reciprocity provisions in the other state:
 - (i) Provide the least restrictive path to licensure for Arkansas applicants;
 - (ii) Do not require Arkansas applicants to participate in the apprenticeship, education, or training required as a prerequisite to licensure of a new professional in that state, except that the state may require Arkansas applicants to participate in continuing education or training that is required for all professionals in that state to maintain the licensure; and
 - (iii) Do not require Arkansas applicants to take a state-specific education unless required to do so under the same conditions described in Arkansas Code § 17-1-108.

(C) Prohibiting criminal offenses.

- (1) An individual is not eligible to receive or hold a license issued by the department if that individual has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or been found guilty of any of the offenses detailed in Arkansas Code § 17-3-102 by any court in the State of Arkansas or of any similar offense by a court in another state or of any similar offense by a federal court, unless:
 - (i) The conviction was lawfully sealed under the Comprehensive Criminal Record Sealing Act of 2013, Arkansas Code § 16-90-1401 et seq.; or
 - (ii) Otherwise sealed, pardoned, or expunged under prior law.
- (2) The department may grant a waiver as authorized by Arkansas Code § 17-3-102 in certain circumstances.
- (3)
 - (i) The department is not authorized to conduct criminal background checks, but may inquire about criminal convictions upon application or renewal of a license.
 - (ii) Any applicant or licensee who provides false information to the State Board of Health regarding a criminal conviction may be subject to suspension, revocation, or denial of a license.

(D) Prelicensure prohibiting offense determination.

- (1) Pursuant to Acts 2019, No. 990, an individual may petition for a prelicensure determination of whether:
 - (i) The individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from licensure; and
 - (ii) A waiver may be obtained.
- (2) The individual must obtain the prelicensure criminal background check petition form from the department.
- (3) The department will respond with a decision in writing to a completed petition within a reasonable time.
- (4) The department response will state the reason or reasons for the decision.
- (5) All decisions of the department in response to the petition will be determined by the information provided by the individual.
- (6) Any decision made by the department in response to a prelicensure criminal background check petition is not subject to appeal.
- (7) The department will retain a copy of the petition and response and it will be reviewed during the formal application process.

- (8) An individual is not eligible to receive or hold a license issued by the department if that individual has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or been found guilty of any of the offenses detailed in Arkansas Code § 17-3-102 by any court in the State of Arkansas or of any similar offense by a court in another state or of any similar offense by a federal court, unless the conviction was:
 - (i) Lawfully sealed under the Comprehensive Criminal Record Sealing Act of 2013, Arkansas Code § 16-90-1401 et seq.; or
 - (ii) Otherwise sealed, pardoned, or expunged under prior law.
- (9) The department may grant a waiver as authorized by Arkansas Code § 17-3-102 in certain circumstances.
- (10) The department is not authorized to conduct criminal background checks, but may inquire about criminal convictions upon application or renewal of a license.
- (11) Any applicant or licensee that provides false information to the State Board of Health regarding a criminal conviction may be subject to suspension, revocation, or denial of a license.

(E) Uniform Service Members Licensure under Act 135 of 2021

~~(1) Definitions~~

~~(2) "Automatic licensure" means granting the occupational licensure without an individual having met occupational licensure requirements provided under the Arkansas Code or by other provisions in these Rules.~~

~~(3) "Uniformed service member" means an active or reserve component member of the United States Air Force, United States Army, United States Coast Guard, United States Marine Corps, United States Navy, United States Space Force, or National Guard; an active component member of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps; or an active or reserve component member of the United States Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service.~~

~~(4) "Uniformed service veteran" means a former member of the United States uniformed services discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.~~

~~(5)~~(1) Applicability

- (i) This Rule applies to a:
 - (a) uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas;
 - (b) uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas;
 - (c) The spouse of (1) or (2) including a:

- A) uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the spouse from accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to Arkansas; or,
- B) uniformed service member who is killed or succumb to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in Arkansas.

~~(6)~~(2) Automatic Licensure

- (i) Automatic Licensure shall be granted to persons listed in [SECTION VIII\(E\)\(1\)\(i\)](#)~~section 2 (a)~~ if:
 - (a) The person is a holder in good standing of occupational licensure with similar scope of practice issued by another state, territory, or district of the United States; and,
 - (b) The person pays the licensure fee [in SECTION VI\(D\)](#).

~~(7)~~(3) Credit toward initial licensure

- (i) Relevant and applicable uniformed service education, training, [national certification](#), or service-issued credential shall be accepted toward initial licensure. ~~for a uniformed service member or a uniformed service veteran who makes an application within one (1) year of his or her discharge from uniformed service.~~

~~(8)~~(4) Expiration Dates ~~and Continuing Education~~

- ~~(i) A license expiration date shall be extended for a deployed uniformed service member or spouse for one hundred eighty (180) days following the date of the uniformed service member's return from deployment.~~
- ~~(ii) A uniformed service member or spouse shall be exempt from continuing education requirements in Rule _____ for one hundred eighty (180) days following the date of the uniformed service member's return from deployment.~~
- ~~(i) Any uniformed service member or spouse exercising the exemption shall provide evidence of completion of continuing education evidence of before renewal or grant of a subsequent license.~~

[\(F\) Automatic Occupational Licensure for Out-of-State Licensure Act, Act 457 of 2023](#)

[\(1\) The Applicant is either:](#)

- [\(i\) in good standing for at least one \(1\) year for a Septic Tank Cleaner license with similar scope of practice issued by another state, territory, or district of the United States; or,](#)
- [\(ii\) has worked for at least three \(3\) years in the Septic Tank Cleaner occupation in another state, territory, or district of the United States that does not use a Septic Tank Cleaner licensure to regulate the Septic Tank Cleaner occupation for which the applicant is applying;](#)

- (2) The applicant does not have a disqualifying criminal offense under Ark. Code Ann. §17-3-102 or under any additional state law relating to the Septic Tank Cleaner licensure;
- (3) The applicant does not have a complaint, allegation, or investigation pending in his or her occupational activity in this state or in the state of the applicant's previous residency where the Septic Tank Cleaner licensure was granted;
- (4) The applicant passes an examination specific to relevant state laws that regulate the Septic Tank Cleaner occupation.
- (5) The Department of Health may waive the requirement for the applicant to pass an examination specific to relevant state laws that regulate the Septic Tank Cleaner occupation if the Department finds that:
 - (i) The combination of the applicant's education, training, and experience is a sufficient substitute for the state law examination requirement; and,
 - (ii) A waiver by the Department of Health will not harm public health, safety, or welfare.
- (6) Upon the applicant being granted automatic occupational licensure, the applicant shall:
 - (i) Meet all other Septic Tank Cleaner licensure requirements; and,
 - ~~(iii)~~(ii) Meet all renewal requirements of the Septic Tank Cleaner licensure, including, without limitation, a criminal background check.

SECTION IX PENALTIES.

Every firm, person, or corporation who violates any of the rules issued or promulgated by the State Board of Health or who violates any condition of a license, permit, certificate, or any other type of registration issued by the board may be assessed a civil penalty by the board. The penalty shall not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each violation. Each day of a continuing violation may be deemed a separate violation for purposes of penalty assessments.

SECTION X SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of these Rules, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of these Rules which can give effect without the invalid provisions or applications, and to this end the provisions hereto are declared to be severable.

SECTION XI REPEAL

All Rules and parts of Rules in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

CERTIFICATION

This will certify that the foregoing Rules Pertaining to Septic Tank Cleaners were adopted by the Arkansas State Board of Health on the ~~28th~~ day of ~~October~~, ~~2021~~2023.

Jennifer Dillaha, MD
Secretary of the Arkansas State Board of Health
Director of the Arkansas Department of Health

Arkansas Department of Health
Rules Pertaining to Septic Tank Cleaners



Promulgated under the authority of:

Act 71 of 1973 as amended

Ark. Code Ann. § 17-45-101, et seq.

And

Act 96 of 1913

Ark. Code Ann. § 20-7-101, et seq.

Effective Date:

Table of Contents

SECTION I	AUTHORITY.....	2
SECTION II	DEFINITIONS.....	2
SECTION III	COMPLIANCE.....	4
SECTION IV	EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS	4
SECTION V	DISPOSAL.....	5
SECTION VI	LICENSEE RESPONSIBILITIES.....	7
SECTION VII	LICENSE REQUIRED.....	7
SECTION VIII	RECIPROCITY AND LICENSURE (A.C.A. § 17-1-108(C)(D)(I)(A) AND A.C.A. § 17-1-106) ...	8
SECTION IX	PENALTIES.	14
SECTION X	SEVERABILITY.	14
SECTION XI	REPEAL	14
	CERTIFICATION.....	14

SECTION I AUTHORITY

The following Rules Pertaining to Septic Tank Cleaning Operations Within the State of Arkansas are duly adopted and promulgated by the Arkansas State Board of Health pursuant to the laws of the State of Arkansas including, Act 71 of 1973 as amended (Ark. Code Ann. § 17-45-101-105) and Act 96 of 1913 (Ark. Code Ann. § 20-7-101, et seq.).

SECTION II DEFINITIONS

- (A) APPROVED. Acceptable to the Department following a determination of compliance with appropriate public health and environmental standards.
- (B) AUTHORIZED AGENT. The Environmental Health Specialist assigned to the County by the Department.
- (C) AUTOMATIC LICENSURE. The granting of the occupational licensure without an individual having met occupational licensure requirements provided under the Arkansas Code or by other provisions in these Rules.
- (D) AUTOMATIC OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE. The granting of occupational licensure to an applicant who establishes residency within this state without the individual's having met occupational licensure requirements under Title 17 of the Arkansas Code or by these Rules.
- (E) BOUND RECORD. A tamper resistant book with numbered, non-removable pages with entries made with indelible ink.
- (F) THE DEPARTMENT. The Arkansas Department of Health or its authorized agent.

- (G) EQUIPMENT. All tanks, devices, tools and implements used in the cleaning or pumping of septic tanks, holding tanks, marine sanitation devices, portable toilets, or other sewage handling facilities
- (H) HOLDING TANK. A septic tank, marine sanitation device, portable toilet, or other device used for the temporary storage of untreated human waste.
- (I) LAND APPLICATION. A method of septage disposal utilizing either surface spreading, subsurface injection, burial or other process approved by the Department.
- (J) LICENSEE. The licensed owner or operator of a business, firm, or corporation engaged in the business of cleaning septic tanks, marine sanitation devices, portable toilets, and or the transporting of septage or sewage.
- (K) MARINE SANITATION DEVICE. Any device on board a vessel designed to retain, treat, or discharge human body waste.
- (L) PORTABLE TOILET. Any equipment used to receive and retain human waste prior to its delivery to a sewage treatment facility.
- (M) PUMPER VEHICLE. Any truck, trailer, boat, tank or combination thereof used to transport septage or sewage.
- (N) SCUM. The partially submerged mat of floating solids that forms at the surface of septic tanks or sewage handling facilities.
- (O) SEPTAGE. The liquid, scum and sludge from a septic tank or sewage handling facility excluding biosolids from a municipal or publicly owned treatment facility.
- (P) SEPTIC TANK CLEANER. Any person, firm, corporation, or association which cleans septic tanks, marine sanitation devices, portable toilets, or transports septage or sewage within the State of Arkansas.
- (Q) SEWAGE. The contents of holding tanks, marine sanitation devices, portable toilets, or other tanks used for the storage of human waste.
- (R) SLUDGE. The accumulation of settled, solid material in the bottom of a septic tank or sewage handling facility.
- (S) UNIFORMED SERVICE MEMBER. An active or reserve component member of the United States Air Force, United States Army, United States Coast Guard, United States Marine Corps, United States Navy, United States Space Force, or National Guard; an active component member of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps; or an active or reserve component member of the United States Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service.
- (T) UNIFORMED SERVICE VETERAN. A former member of the United States uniformed services discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

SECTION III COMPLIANCE

No person, firm, corporation, partnership, or association shall be engaged in the business of septic tank cleaning or the transportation of septage or sewage for compensation, unless they are in compliance with these rules.

SECTION IV EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS

- (A) Tanks. The minimum tank size for tank pumper vehicles is 1000 gallons. Portable toilet cleaning vehicles and marine cleaning vessels are exempt from the 1000 minimum size requirement. All tanks used for the transportation of septage or sewage shall be constructed of metal throughout that is welded, water-tight and splash-proof. The firm or owner's name, license number, and the capacity of the tank shall be shown conspicuously on each side of the tank in letters at least 4 inches in height. A gauge or measuring device shall be provided on each tank to adequately measure the contents of the tank at varying depths. Before the initial licensing, a certified weight slip shall be filed with the Department showing the weight of the empty tank and the weight of the tank when full of water. Any changes or modifications to the tank shall require the submission of current weight slips to the Department.
- (B) Pumps. Pumps utilized for cleaning septic tanks or sewage treatment facilities shall be adequate to lift the scum, sludge, and liquid contents of the septic tank into the tank pumper vehicle. Pumps shall be so constructed that there is no leakage, spillage or splashing onto the outer surfaces of the tank or equipment. A tight metal hood shall be provided over the pump on all diaphragm or similar types of open pumps.
- (C) Valves. A leak proof gate valve with a minimum of 2-1/2 inches in size shall be provided on each tank for the discharge of the contents while being emptied.
- (D) Hoses. A discharge hose compatible with the discharge valve shall be provided for each vehicle. This hose shall have sufficient length to discharge into a manhole or near the ground surface when land application is utilized. The hoses used to pump the contents of septic tanks or holding tanks shall be of an adequate length and have the proper fittings to preclude spillage or leakage.
- (E) Racks. All racks used for the carrying of equipment on the vehicle shall be made of metal. All parts of the truck and equipment shall be easily cleanable. No pockets shall be permitted where accumulation of septage or sewage may result.
- (F) Marine cleaning vessels. Vessels designed and licensed to pump and transport marine wastes shall be equipped with a welded, leak and splash-proof tank constructed of metal or other approved material. All hoses, valves and fittings shall be designed and used in a manner that prevents the leakage or spillage of marine wastes into the environment. Each marine cleaning vessel shall be equipped with or provided with the necessary pumps, hoses, valves, fittings, and other devices necessary to transfer the marine wastes to the land vehicle or facility where the marine wastes will be transported to the receiving sewage treatment plant.
- (G) Portable toilet cleaning vehicles. Vehicles used for the cleaning and maintenance of portable toilets shall be equipped with a welded, leak and splash-proof metal tank for the transport of waste to the receiving treatment facility. The vehicle shall also be equipped with separate tanks

for wash down solution and disinfectant. Additionally, each portable toilet cleaning vehicle shall be provided with the hoses, brushes, and other equipment necessary to clean, service, and sanitize portable toilets.

SECTION V DISPOSAL

- (A) The disposal of sewage or septage by any method that violates any state or federal law or rule is strictly prohibited. The wastes from holding tanks, portable toilets, and marine sanitation devices shall not be land applied. These wastes shall be disposed of in a permitted and properly operated sewage treatment facility.
- (B) LAND APPLICATION DISPOSAL SITES. The land application of septage at any site not previously inspected, approved, and on file with the department shall be a violation of these rules. To obtain approval for land application of septage, each site shall be inspected by an authorized agent prior to licensing. A notarized statement from the landowner granting permission for the land application of septage shall be obtained for each disposal site. The licensee shall furnish a legal description, topographical map, and vicinity map for each disposal site. The maps shall reflect pertinent information pertaining to the number of acres, GPS coordinates, the location and distance to property lines, nearby homes, roads, ditches, wells, utilities, gullies, streams and land use (cropland, pastures, etc.) relevant to septage disposal. Every five (5) years the department will assess approved land application sites and obtain soil samples to verify compliance with these rules.
- (C) PROPER SEPTAGE DISPOSAL AT LAND APPLICATION SITES. Septage shall be evenly distributed across the site in a manner that prevents surface runoff, ponding, or the accumulation of septage more than one inch in depth. To achieve even distribution, the vehicle applying the septage shall remain in motion and utilize a splash plate or other approved method of dispersal. There shall be no disposal within 1000 feet of any place of habitation; 500 feet of any public road; 100 feet of any rock outcrops or sink holes; 50 feet of property lines; 100 feet of streams, lakes, ponds, springs, wells or water supplies.

Options for the land application of septage include:

- (1) The pH of the septage shall be raised to a minimum of twelve (12) or higher by the addition of an alkali such as hydrated lime or quick lime, and without adding more alkali, the septage shall remain at a pH of twelve (12) or higher for not less than thirty (30) minutes prior to being land applied. OR
- (2) Septage shall be injected below the surface of the soil. When septage is injected below the surface of the soil, no significant amount of septage shall be present on the surface of that soil after one (1) hour. OR
- (3) Septage shall be evenly spread over the surface of the soil and incorporated into the surface of that soil within six (6) hours of application.

Septage shall not be applied in excess of the below described annual application rates for nitrogen and phosphorus.

- (1) During any 365-day period, the amount of domestic septage applied to a land application site shall not exceed the annual application rate calculated using the equation $AAR = N \div 0.0026$, where:

AAR = Annual application rate in gallons per acre per 365-day period

N = Amount of nitrogen in pounds per acre per 365-day period needed by the crop or vegetation grown

- (2) Annual septage land application shall not exceed the phosphorus rates for the crop or vegetation grown and shall not be applied in rates that result in phytotoxicity.

The septage being land applied shall be screened and shall contain no paper, plastic, or other solid material measuring more than one-half inch in any dimension. Grease and/or the contents of grease traps shall not be disposed of at any land application site approved under these rules.

Sites demonstrating a slope of 15% or greater are not suitable for land application. Land application shall be avoided when the soil is saturated, frozen, covered with snow, during rainy weather or when precipitation is in the immediate forecast.

Licensees utilizing land application sites only, for the disposal of septage must have available a storage tank sufficient to store the septage collected during periods when climatic conditions preclude land application. These tanks shall be provided with a spill containment berm.

Food crops with harvested parts above the ground surface shall not be harvested for fourteen (14) months after the last application of septage. Food crops with harvested parts that are at or below the ground surface shall not be harvested for thirty-eight (38) months after the last application of septage. At approved application sites, human contact shall be restricted for 30 days after application, and no grazing or harvesting of hay, silage or grain shall commence for 60 days.

For each land application site, the licensee shall maintain a permanent, bound site application record indicating each application of septage, the volume of septage applied, the date it was applied, the crop to which it was applied, a description of the vector and pathogen reduction method used, the method of land application used, and the name of the person applying the septage. These records shall be kept for a minimum of five years and shall be made available to both state and federal regulators on request.

- (D) DISPOSAL INTO SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS. A current contract with each sewer improvement district and / or sewage treatment facility where the licensee disposes of sewage and / or septage shall be on file with the Department. The disposal of sewage or septage at a site or facility not on file with the Department is a violation of these rules.
- (E) DISPOSAL OF HOLDING TANK, MARINE SANITATION DEVICE, AND PORTABLE TOILET CONTENTS. The contents of holding tanks, marine sanitation devices, and portable toilets is considered untreated sewage and shall not be land-applied under any circumstances. The only acceptable means of disposal for these wastes is into a public sewer system with which the licensee has a contract.

SECTION VI LICENSEE RESPONSIBILITIES.

- (A) The licensee shall pass an examination as prescribed by the Department which will reflect the licensee's knowledge in the areas of diseases transmitted by septage and sewage, vector and pathogen reduction, applicable federal and state laws, stream pollution, land application, and permitting requirements.
- (B) The licensee shall be responsible for the actions of his employees, partners, associates and co-owners regarding septic tank cleaning and the proper disposal of septage and sewage.
- (C) Each licensee shall be responsible for displaying, on each licensed vehicle, a decal issued by the Department at the initial licensing. This decal shall be located on the tank of the pumper vehicle adjacent to the firm or owner's name, license number and tank capacity. When the annual re-licensing requirements are met, renewal decals will be issued by the Department.
- (D) The annual license fee is \$25.00. Licenses shall be issued with an effective date of July 1 of each year and will expire one year from the effective date. In addition to the annual license fee, an annual fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) will be charged for every pumper vehicle above the first vehicle owned by the licensee or the business.
- (E) Applications for renewal shall include current inspection reports for each pumper vehicle, notarized permission statements from all receiving landowners, and contracts with all sewer improvement districts and treatment facilities where sewage and/ or septage will be disposed. Renewal applications shall be submitted to the Department by July 1 of each year. The renewal request shall include any equipment changes or modifications made to pumper vehicles during the previous license period.
- (F) The annual vehicle inspection shall be conducted by the authorized agent in the county of the licensee's or firm's residence or place of business. Inspection of each pumper vehicle shall be conducted with the tank filled. The required equipment shall be inspected at this time. The owners of pumper vehicles which are located outside of Arkansas shall contact the authorized agent of the nearest or most conveniently located Arkansas county and arrange a time and place for inspection.
- (G) The owner or employee of a business licensed under these Rules shall, upon performing any work for which compensation is received, place his name and the number of the license issued to the business on the customer's receipt.
- (H) Each pumper vehicle shall maintain and have on board a bound service record listing the operators name, the date and location of each septic tank, treatment plant, holding tank, marine sanitation device, portable toilet, or other sewage handling facility pumped, the vector and pathogen reduction method used, the date and location of disposal. Other methods of record keeping will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

SECTION VII LICENSE REQUIRED

No person, firm, corporation, partnership, or association shall engage in the business of septic tank cleaning or the transportation of septage, sewage or sludge for compensation without a valid

license as provided herein. Proceedings regarding a license shall be conducted pursuant to the Department's rules of administrative procedure. No part of this rule authorizes a licensee or any of his assigns to construct, repair, or modify an individual sewage system without that person first obtaining a valid Septic Tank Cleaner's License.

- (A) Pursuant to Act 725 of 2021, an applicant may receive a waiver of the initial licensure fee, if eligible. Eligible applicants are applicants who:
 - (1) Are receiving assistance through the Arkansas, or current state of residence equivalent, Medicaid Program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (SSNP), the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (TEA), or the Lifeline Assistance Program (LAP);
 - (2) Were approved for unemployment within the last twelve (12) months; or
 - (3) Have an income that does not exceed two hundred percent (200%) of the federal poverty income guidelines.
- (B) Applicants shall provide documentation showing their receipt of benefits from the appropriate State Agency.
 - (1) For Medicaid, SNAP, SSNP, TEA, or LAP, documentation from the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS), or current state of residence equivalent agency;
 - (2) For unemployment benefits approval in the last twelve (12) months, the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, or current state of residence equivalent agency; or
 - (3) 3For proof of income, copies of all United States Internal Revenue Service Forms indicating applicant's total personal income for the most recent tax year e.g., "W2," "1099," etc.
- (C) Applicants shall attest that the documentation provided under (b) is a true and correct copy and fraudulent or fraudulently obtained documentation shall be grounds for denial or revocation of license.

SECTION VIII RECIPROCITY AND LICENSURE (A.C.A. § 17-1-108(C)(D)(I)(A)) AND A.C.A. § 17-1-106)

- (A) Required qualifications.
 - (1) An applicant applying for reciprocal licensure shall meet the following requirements.
 - (2)
 - (i) The applicant shall hold a substantially similar license in another United States jurisdiction.
 - (ii) A license from another state is substantially similar to an Arkansas license if the other state's licensure qualifications require:

- (a) The applicant shall hold his or her occupational licensure in good standing;
- (b) The applicant shall not have had a license revoked for:
 - A) An act of bad faith; or
 - B) A violation of law, rule, or ethics; and
- (3) The applicant shall not hold a suspended or probationary license in a United States jurisdiction.
- (4) Required documentation.
 - (i) An applicant shall submit a fully executed application, the required fee, and the documentation described below.
 - (ii) As evidence that the applicant's license from another jurisdiction is substantially similar to Arkansas, the applicant shall submit the following information:
 - (a) Evidence of current and active licensure in that state.
 - A) The Department of Health may verify this information online if the jurisdiction at issue provides primary source verification on its website or by telephone to the other's state's licensing board; and
 - (b) Evidence that the other state's licensure requirements match those listed in this subsection.
 - A) The department may verify this information online or by telephone to the other's state's licensing group.
 - (c) To demonstrate that the applicant meets the requirements in this subsection the applicant shall provide the department with:
 - A) The names of all states in which the applicant is currently licensed or has been previously licensed; and
 - B) Letters of good standing or other information from each state in which the applicant is currently or has ever been licensed showing that the applicant:
 - 1) Has not had his or her license revoked for the reasons listed in this subsection; and
 - 2) Does not hold a license on suspended or probationary status as described in this subsection.
 - (d) The department may verify this information:
 - A) Online, if the jurisdiction at issue provides primary source verification on its website; or

B) By telephone to the other's state's licensing department.

(B) Temporary and provisional license.

- (1) The department shall issue a temporary and provisional license immediately upon receipt of the application, the required fee, and the documentation required under this section.
- (2) The temporary and provisional license shall be effective for least ninety (90) days or until the department makes a decision on the application, unless the department determines that the applicant does not meet the requirements in the reciprocity subdivisions in this section in which case the provisional and temporary license shall be immediately revoked.
- (3) An applicant may:
 - (i) Provide the rest of the documentation required above in order to receive a license; or
 - (ii) Only provide the information necessary for the issuance of a temporary and provisional license.
- (4) License for person from state that does not license profession, Acts 2019, No. 1011, Arkansas Code § 17-1-108(d)(2).
- (5) Required documentation.
 - (i) An applicant shall submit a fully executed application, the required fee, and the documentation described below.
 - (ii) Passing the required test for Septic Tank Cleaner.
- (6) Reciprocity and state-specific education — Acts 2019, No. 1011, Arkansas Code § 17-1-108(d)(3). The department shall require an applicant to take the test if the applicant is licensed in another state that does not offer reciprocity to Arkansas residents that is similar to reciprocity provided to out-of-state applicants in Arkansas Code § 17-1-108.
- (7) Reciprocity in another state will be considered similar to reciprocity under Arkansas Code § 17-1-108 if the reciprocity provisions in the other state:
 - (i) Provide the least restrictive path to licensure for Arkansas applicants;
 - (ii) Do not require Arkansas applicants to participate in the apprenticeship, education, or training required as a prerequisite to licensure of a new professional in that state, except that the state may require Arkansas applicants to participate in continuing education or training that is required for all professionals in that state to maintain the licensure; and
 - (iii) Do not require Arkansas applicants to take a state-specific education unless required to do so under the same conditions described in Arkansas Code § 17-1-108.

(C) Prohibiting criminal offenses.

- (1) An individual is not eligible to receive or hold a license issued by the department if that individual has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or been found guilty of any of the offenses detailed in Arkansas Code § 17-3-102 by any court in the State of Arkansas or of any similar offense by a court in another state or of any similar offense by a federal court, unless:
 - (i) The conviction was lawfully sealed under the Comprehensive Criminal Record Sealing Act of 2013, Arkansas Code § 16-90-1401 et seq.; or
 - (ii) Otherwise sealed, pardoned, or expunged under prior law.
- (2) The department may grant a waiver as authorized by Arkansas Code § 17-3-102 in certain circumstances.
- (3)
 - (i) The department is not authorized to conduct criminal background checks, but may inquire about criminal convictions upon application or renewal of a license.
 - (ii) Any applicant or licensee who provides false information to the State Board of Health regarding a criminal conviction may be subject to suspension, revocation, or denial of a license.

(D) Prelicensure prohibiting offense determination.

- (1) Pursuant to Acts 2019, No. 990, an individual may petition for a prelicensure determination of whether:
 - (i) The individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from licensure; and
 - (ii) A waiver may be obtained.
- (2) The individual must obtain the prelicensure criminal background check petition form from the department.
- (3) The department will respond with a decision in writing to a completed petition within a reasonable time.
- (4) The department response will state the reason or reasons for the decision.
- (5) All decisions of the department in response to the petition will be determined by the information provided by the individual.
- (6) Any decision made by the department in response to a prelicensure criminal background check petition is not subject to appeal.
- (7) The department will retain a copy of the petition and response and it will be reviewed during the formal application process.

- (8) An individual is not eligible to receive or hold a license issued by the department if that individual has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or been found guilty of any of the offenses detailed in Arkansas Code § 17-3-102 by any court in the State of Arkansas or of any similar offense by a court in another state or of any similar offense by a federal court, unless the conviction was:
 - (i) Lawfully sealed under the Comprehensive Criminal Record Sealing Act of 2013, Arkansas Code § 16-90-1401 et seq.; or
 - (ii) Otherwise sealed, pardoned, or expunged under prior law.
- (9) The department may grant a waiver as authorized by Arkansas Code § 17-3-102 in certain circumstances.
- (10) The department is not authorized to conduct criminal background checks, but may inquire about criminal convictions upon application or renewal of a license.
- (11) Any applicant or licensee that provides false information to the State Board of Health regarding a criminal conviction may be subject to suspension, revocation, or denial of a license.

(E) Uniform Service Members Licensure under Act 135 of 2021

(1) Applicability

- (i) This Rule applies to a:
 - (a) uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas;
 - (b) uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas;
 - (c) The spouse of (1) or (2) including a:
 - A) uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the spouse from accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to Arkansas; or,
 - B) uniformed service member who is killed or succumb to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in Arkansas.

(2) Automatic Licensure

- (i) Automatic Licensure shall be granted to persons listed in SECTION VIII(E)(1)(i) if:
 - (a) The person is a holder in good standing of occupational licensure with similar scope of practice issued by another state, territory, or district of the United States; and,
 - (b) The person pays the licensure fee in SECTION VI(D).

(3) Credit toward initial licensure

- (i) Relevant and applicable uniformed service education, training, national certification, or service-issued credential shall be accepted toward initial licensure.

(4) Expiration Dates

- (i) A license expiration date shall be extended for a deployed uniformed service member or spouse for one hundred eighty (180) days following the date of the uniformed service member's return from deployment.

(F) Automatic Occupational Licensure for Out-of-State Licensure Act, Act 457 of 2023

(1) The Applicant is either:

- (i) in good standing for at least one (1) year for a Septic Tank Cleaner license with similar scope of practice issued by another state, territory, or district of the United States; or,
- (ii) has worked for at least three (3) years in the Septic Tank Cleaner occupation in another state, territory, or district of the United States that does not use a Septic Tank Cleaner licensure to regulate the Septic Tank Cleaner occupation for which the applicant is applying;

(2) The applicant does not have a disqualifying criminal offense under Ark. Code Ann. §17-3-102 or under any additional state law relating to the Septic Tank Cleaner licensure;

(3) The applicant does not have a complaint, allegation, or investigation pending in his or her occupational activity in this state or in the state of the applicant's previous residency where the Septic Tank Cleaner licensure was granted;

(4) The applicant passes an examination specific to relevant state laws that regulate the Septic Tank Cleaner occupation.

(5) The Department of Health may waive the requirement for the applicant to pass an examination specific to relevant state laws that regulate the Septic Tank Cleaner occupation if the Department finds that:

- (i) The combination of the applicant's education, training, and experience is a sufficient substitute for the state law examination requirement; and,
- (ii) A waiver by the Department of Health will not harm public health, safety, or welfare.

(6) Upon the applicant being granted automatic occupational licensure, the applicant shall:

- (i) Meet all other Septic Tank Cleaner licensure requirements; and,
- (ii) Meet all renewal requirements of the Septic Tank Cleaner licensure, including, without limitation, a criminal background check.

SECTION IX PENALTIES.

Every firm, person, or corporation who violates any of the rules issued or promulgated by the State Board of Health or who violates any condition of a license, permit, certificate, or any other type of registration issued by the board may be assessed a civil penalty by the board. The penalty shall not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each violation. Each day of a continuing violation may be deemed a separate violation for purposes of penalty assessments.

SECTION X SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of these Rules, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of these Rules which can give effect without the invalid provisions or applications, and to this end the provisions hereto are declared to be severable.

SECTION XI REPEAL

All Rules and parts of Rules in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

CERTIFICATION

This will certify that the foregoing Rules Pertaining to Septic Tank Cleaners were adopted by the Arkansas State Board of Health on the ____ day of _____, 2023.

Jennifer Dillaha, MD
Secretary of the Arkansas State Board of Health
Director of the Arkansas Department of Health



Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders

Renee Mallory, RN, BSN, Secretary of Health

Jennifer Dillaha, MD, Director

PUBLIC COMMENT REPORT **Proposed Rules Pertaining to Septic Tank Cleaners**

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Public comment period expired January 30, 2024.
No comments received.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

Proceed to adoption.