

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: H3/11/99*

# A Bill

Act 1364 of 1999  
HOUSE BILL 2120

5 By: Representative Simmons  
6 By: Senator Riggs  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

10 "AN ACT TO ENHANCE SEISMIC MONITORING OF EARTHQUAKE  
11 ACTIVITY IN ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

### Subtitle

14 "TO ENHANCE SEISMIC MONITORING OF  
15 EARTHQUAKE ACTIVITY IN ARKANSAS."  
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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20 SECTION 1. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly  
21 that earthquake activity in Arkansas has never been closely monitored by a  
22 local network of seismic stations and that the realistic assessment of seismic  
23 hazards in this state can only be accomplished by long term local monitoring  
24 of earthquake activity in this state. Although the monitoring systems  
25 operated by St. Louis University and the Center for Earthquake Research and  
26 Information at the University of Memphis have provided a great deal of  
27 information for risk assessment in the New Madrid seismic zone, the need for  
28 monitoring within Arkansas has become apparent. It would be most beneficial  
29 to the residents of this state for a collaborative program to be established  
30 between St. Louis University, the University of Memphis, and the Arkansas  
31 Center for Earthquake Education and Technology Transfer at the University of  
32 Arkansas at Little Rock, in order to coordinate efforts and prevent  
33 duplication. The Arkansas Center for Earthquake Education and Technology  
34 Transfer is ideally located to handle the logistics of installing and  
35 maintaining a network of seismic monitoring stations within this state and is  
36 committed to offering the necessary personnel and facilities to efficiently

1 handle the undertaking. We must focus on establishing long-term, continuous  
2 monitoring of earthquake activity in Arkansas in order to provide reliable  
3 data for a realistic seismic hazard assessment and it is the intent of this  
4 act to accomplish that purpose.

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6 SECTION 2. The University of Arkansas at Little Rock is hereby directed  
7 to establish the Arkansas Seismological Observatory as a part of the Arkansas  
8 Center for Earthquake Education and Technology Transfer. The Arkansas  
9 Seismological Observatory shall:

- 10 (1) Monitor earthquake activity throughout the state;
- 11 (2) Assist in emergency planning and in providing early warning;
- 12 (3) Provide public education regarding earthquake hazards;
- 13 (4) Provide information useful for earthquake hazard mitigation;
- 14 (5) Provide the scientific community with relevant data;
- 15 (6) Provide real time, immediate data regarding seismic activity to  
16 government agencies such as the Office of Emergency Services, the Arkansas  
17 Geological Commission, and critical facilities that operate in the region such  
18 as Arkansas Nuclear One, the National Center for Toxicological Research, and  
19 the Army Nerve Gas Facility; and
- 20 (7) Establish a collaborative relationship with St. Louis University  
21 and the University of Memphis in order to coordinate efforts and prevent  
22 duplication of effort.

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24 SECTION 3. The seismic network operated by the Arkansas Seismological  
25 Observatory should initially consist of at least ten (10) stations installed  
26 at remote locations with the central recording station located on the campus  
27 of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The complete monitoring network  
28 should be established over a five (5) year period to allow for technological  
29 upgrades so that state-of-the-art seismological equipment will be utilized  
30 appropriately throughout the network.

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

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36 SECTION 5. If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to

1 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
2 other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without  
3 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
4 Act are declared to be severable.

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

8 */s/ Simmons, et al*

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11 APPROVED: 4/12/1999  
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