

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 464

5 By: Senator Hester
6 By: Representative Maddox
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ENSURE THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF CERTAIN
10 PROCEDURES INVOLVED IN THE EXECUTION OF A PERSON FOR
11 A CAPITAL OFFENSE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
13

Subtitle

15 TO ENSURE THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF CERTAIN
16 PROCEDURES INVOLVED IN THE EXECUTION OF A
17 PERSON FOR A CAPITAL OFFENSE.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

23 The General Assembly finds that:

24 (1) As United States Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito has
25 explained, there is a well-documented guerilla war being waged against the
26 death penalty;

27 (2) Anti-death-penalty advocates have pressured pharmaceutical
28 companies to refuse to supply the drugs used by states to carry out death
29 sentences;

30 (3) The Department of Correction is unable to acquire the
31 necessary drugs used to carry out lethal injections due to the lack of
32 effective confidentiality regarding the manufacturers, suppliers, and others
33 involved in the provision of lethal injection drugs; and

34 (4) Any disclosure of the information described under this act,
35 beyond disclosure to the government officials required to carry out their
36 duties under law, is detrimental to the carrying out of lawful sentences of



1 executions.

2
3 SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative intent.

4 It is the intent of the General Assembly:

5 (1) To ensure absolute confidentiality of any documents,
6 records, or information that could lead to the identification of a person or
7 entity involved in any way in the Department of Correction's provisioning of
8 drugs used for lethal injections; and

9 (2) That the confidentiality provisions of this act be construed
10 as broadly as possible to ensure that the Department of Correction is able to
11 acquire the drugs necessary for lethal injections.

12
13 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 5-4-617(i)-(1), concerning the method of
14 execution for the sentence of capital punishment, are amended to read as
15 follows:

16 ~~(i)(1) The procedures under subdivision (g)(1) of this section, the~~
17 ~~implementation of the procedures under subdivision (g)(1) of this section,~~
18 ~~and the identities of the entities and persons who participate in the~~
19 ~~execution process or administer the lethal injection are not subject to~~
20 ~~disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act of 1967, § 25-19-101 et seq.~~

21 ~~(2) The department shall keep confidential all information that~~
22 ~~may identify or lead to the identification of:~~

23 ~~(A) The entities and persons who participate in the~~
24 ~~execution process or administer the lethal injection; and~~

25 ~~(B) The entities and persons who compound, test, sell, or~~
26 ~~supply the drug or drugs described in subsection (c) of this section, medical~~
27 ~~supplies, or medical equipment for the execution process.~~

28 ~~(3) The department shall not disclose the information covered~~
29 ~~under this subsection in litigation without first applying to the court for a~~
30 ~~protective order regarding the information under this subsection.~~

31 (i)(1) Except as provided for under subdivision (i)(2) of this
32 section, a person shall not disclose in response to a request under the
33 Freedom of Information Act of 1967, § 25-19-101 et seq., or in response to
34 discovery under the Arkansas Rules of Civil Procedure, or otherwise, any of
35 the following:

36 (A) Documents, records, or information that may identify

1 or reasonably lead to the identification of entities or persons who
2 participate in the execution process or administer lethal injections;

3 (B) Documents, records, or information that may identify
4 or reasonably lead directly or indirectly to the identification of an entity
5 or person who compounds, synthesizes, tests, sells, supplies, manufactures,
6 transports, procures, dispenses, or prescribes the drug or drugs described in
7 subsection (c) of this section, or that provides the medical supplies or
8 medical equipment for the execution process; or

9 (C) Documents, records, or information that concern the
10 procedures under subdivision (g)(1) of this section and the implementation of
11 the procedures under subdivision (g)(1) of this section.

12 (2) The following documents, records, and information may be
13 disclosed:

14 (A) The director may disclose or authorize disclosure of
15 documents, records, and information to his or her subordinates, contractors,
16 or vendors to the extent necessary to carry out his or her duties under this
17 section;

18 (B) The director may disclose or authorize disclosure of
19 documents, records, and information to the Governor or the Attorney General,
20 or both; and

21 (C) The Governor or the Attorney General, or both, may
22 disclose or authorize the disclosure of documents, records, and information
23 to their subordinates to the extent necessary to carry out their duties under
24 law.

25 (3)(A) If any part of this subsection is invalidated by a final
26 and unappealable court order, any unauthorized disclosure of information
27 under this section shall be permitted only after the entry and service of an
28 order prohibiting public disclosure or use of the documents, records, or
29 information and requiring that a public filing of the documents, records, or
30 information be done under seal.

31 (B) A person who recklessly discloses documents, records,
32 or information in violation of an order under this subdivision (i)(3) upon
33 conviction is guilty of a Class D felony.

34 (j)(1) The director shall certify under oath that the drug or drugs
35 described in subsection (c) of this section meet the requirements of
36 subsection (d) of this section.

