

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

Act 1260 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: H3/3/05 S3/14/05

2 85th General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2005

HOUSE BILL 1971

4  
5 By: Representatives Harrelson, Bond

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7  
8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO TRANSFER THE STAFF OF THE ARKANSAS CODE  
10 REVISION COMMISSION TO THE BUREAU OF LEGISLATIVE  
11 RESEARCH; TO PROVIDE THAT THE BUREAU SHALL  
12 PROVIDE STAFF ASSISTANCE TO THE ARKANSAS CODE  
13 REVISION COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

14  
15 **Subtitle**

16 AN ACT TO TRANSFER THE STAFF OF THE  
17 ARKANSAS CODE REVISION COMMISSION TO THE  
18 BUREAU OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH AND TO  
19 PROVIDE THAT THE BUREAU SHALL PROVIDE  
20 STAFF ASSISTANCE TO THE ARKANSAS CODE  
21 REVISION COMMISSION.

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23  
24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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26 SECTION 1. (a)(1) Effective July 1, 2005, employees of the Arkansas  
27 Code Revision Commission are transferred to the Bureau of Legislative  
28 Research and shall be employees of the bureau.

29 (2) Effective July 1, 2005, the person who was employed as  
30 Executive Director of the Arkansas Code Revision Commission on June 30, 2005,  
31 shall become the code revisor for the Bureau of Legislative Research.

32 (b) All of the commission's records, personnel, property, unexpended  
33 balances of appropriations, allocations, and funds are transferred to the  
34 Bureau of Legislative Research.

35 (c) The Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall retain its powers,



1 duties, and functions with respect to the Arkansas Code but staff support  
2 shall be provided by the Bureau of Legislative Research.

3 (d)(1) Employees transferred from the Arkansas Code Revision  
4 Commission may occupy positions authorized for the Bureau of Legislative  
5 Research and Bureau of Legislative Research employees may occupy positions  
6 authorized for the Arkansas Code Revision Commission.

7 (2) Appropriations authorized for the personal services and  
8 operating expenses of the Arkansas Code Revision Commission may be utilized  
9 for the personal services and operating expenses of the Bureau of Legislative  
10 Research and appropriations authorized for the personal services and  
11 operating expenses of the Bureau of Legislative Research may be utilized for  
12 the personal services and operating expenses of the office and employees  
13 transferred from the Arkansas Code Revision Commission and for operating  
14 expenses of the Arkansas Code Revision Commission.

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16 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 1-2-302 is amended to read as follows:

17 1-2-302. ~~Executive director~~ Code revisor and staff assistance.

18 ~~The commission may employ an executive director and fix his~~  
19 ~~compensation, duties, authority, and responsibilities.~~

20 (a)(1) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall employ a person to  
21 serve as code revisor.

22 (2)(A) The Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research shall  
23 seek the advice of the Arkansas Code Revision Commission before employing a  
24 person as code revisor and before terminating the employment of a person who  
25 is serving as code revisor.

26 (B) The commission shall be entitled to interview  
27 applicants for the position of code revisor.

28 (b) The director shall consult with the commission concerning the  
29 duties, authority, and responsibility of the code revisor and concerning the  
30 code revision duties of other bureau personnel who assist the commission.

31  
32 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 1-2-303 is amended to read as follows:

33 1-2-303. Powers and duties.

34 (a)(1) The Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall, from time to time,  
35 arrange for the publication of compilations, recom compilations, revisions,  
36 codifications, or recodifications of or cumulative or noncumulative

1 supplements to the statutes of Arkansas.

2 (2) The commission shall arrange for the solicitation and  
3 receipt of competitive bids for all these publications on such terms as it  
4 deems reasonable.

5 (3) Specifications for the publications shall be drawn under the  
6 supervision of and subject to approval by the commission.

7 (4)(A) Contracts shall be awarded to the lowest responsible  
8 bidder, taking into consideration, among other things, estimated time of  
9 performance, quality of work, probability of timely and adequate performance,  
10 and experience of the company regarding the services sought by the  
11 commission.

12 (B) If the best interests of the state would be served,  
13 any and all bids submitted to the commission regarding any publication  
14 project may be rejected, and the commission may negotiate any necessary  
15 contract with the party most qualified to perform the services sought by the  
16 commission.

17 (5) The price at which publications under this section shall be  
18 sold shall, from time to time, be fixed by the Arkansas Code Revision  
19 Commission. If the commission enters into a contract with a publisher for any  
20 publication, the price at which the publication under the contract shall be  
21 sold shall, from time to time, be fixed by agreement between the commission  
22 and the publishers.

23 (6) Supplements and replacement volumes published under the  
24 supervision of the commission shall be prima facie evidence of the law  
25 contained therein.

26 (b) The Arkansas Code Revision Commission, in its discretion and  
27 subject to the provisions and requirements of § 19-4-1109, may enter into  
28 contracts for professional services to the commission, which contracts may  
29 include, but are not limited to, the purposes of:

30 (1)(A) Creating and maintaining up-to-date continuing  
31 computerized data base banks of the statutes of Arkansas by use of magnetic  
32 tape or other means of photographic or electronic preservation and  
33 reproduction systems with facilities for electronic access and retrieval.

34 (B) However, before the commission shall enter into any  
35 contract for computerized data base banks of the statutes of Arkansas, the  
36 commission shall confer with and seek the advice of the President Pro Tempore

1 of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Legislative  
2 Council, and the Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research with respect  
3 to the needs and requirements for use of computerized data base banks of the  
4 statutes of Arkansas:

5 (i) For electronic access and statutory retrieval in  
6 connection with a computerized bill drafting and bill processing system;

7 (ii) To meet the needs of the General Assembly and  
8 the committees thereof; and

9 (iii) To assist in the preparation of acts signed by  
10 the Governor for printing of the official Acts of Arkansas.

11 (C) The commission shall confer periodically with the  
12 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
13 Representatives, the Legislative Council, and the Director of the Bureau of  
14 Legislative Research and shall seek their advice with respect to means of  
15 upgrading and improving the computerized data base banks to meet the needs  
16 and requirements for their respective uses;

17 (2) Providing continuing assistance to the commission in the  
18 maintenance of the data bases and the appropriate codification of legislation  
19 enacted by the General Assembly;

20 (3) Performing those other services which are determined by the  
21 commission from time to time to be reasonably required and necessary in order  
22 to maintain availability to the State of Arkansas of up-to-date computerized  
23 data base indices of the statutes of Arkansas and in furtherance of its  
24 duties and authority as otherwise provided by this subchapter and by other  
25 provisions of law; and

26 (4) Preparing a codification of all the statutes in a proposed  
27 code of laws to be presented to the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas  
28 for approval and enactment, or, in lieu of a single codification of all of  
29 the state's statutes, preparation of recommended codes of a similar subject  
30 or nature in proposed titles or chapters of a code for consideration by the  
31 General Assembly for enactment from time to time with the overall objective  
32 of eventually incorporating all of the state's statutes in a unified  
33 codification of those laws.

34 ~~(c) The commission shall cause the executive director and other staff~~  
35 ~~members of the commission~~ The code revisor and other designated personnel of  
36 the Bureau of Legislative Research shall assist the commission:

1           (1) To make continual studies and conduct reviews of the common  
2 law, statutes, and current judicial decisions of the state in order to  
3 identify:

- 4                   (A) Obsolete statutes;
- 5                   (B) Overlapping and duplicating laws;
- 6                   (C) Inequitable or inconsistent laws;
- 7                   (D) Deficiencies in existing laws which contribute to  
8 indefiniteness of interpretation of the purpose of those laws or the  
9 legislative intent of those laws;
- 10                  (E) Deficiencies in administrative procedures;
- 11                  (F) Defects in practice and procedure; and
- 12                  (G) Deficiencies of due process provisions in the  
13 enforcement of the criminal laws of this state;

14           (2) To prepare initial drafts of corrective legislation to be  
15 filed with the Legislative Council no later than one hundred twenty (120)  
16 days after the adjournment of each session; and

17           (3)(A) To make studies of the methods, means, and systems used  
18 in the various states for the compilation, codification, revision, and  
19 publication of the compilations, codifications, or statutes of those states.

20                   (B) These studies are to be used by the commission in  
21 determining means of improving the codification of the statutes of Arkansas  
22 and to prepare recommendations to the General Assembly in regard thereto.

23           (d)(1) In exercising the powers and duties imposed upon it by this  
24 subchapter, the commission shall not authorize any change in the substance or  
25 meaning of any provision of the Arkansas Code or any act of the General  
26 Assembly. The bureau shall not change the substance or meaning of any  
27 provision of the Arkansas Code or any act of the General Assembly. However,  
28 the bureau working under the direction of the commission is authorized to:

- 29                   (A) Correct the spelling of words;
- 30                   (B) Change the capitalization for the purpose of  
31 uniformity;
- 32                   (C) Correct manifest typographical and grammatical errors;
- 33                   (D) Correct manifest errors in references to laws and  
34 other documents;
- 35                   (E) Correct manifest errors in internal reference numbers;
- 36                   (F) Substitute the proper Code section number, subchapter

1 number, chapter number, subtitle number, title number, or other number or  
2 designation for the terms "this act", "the preceding Code section", or any  
3 similar words or phrases;

4 (G) Number, renumber, redesignate, and rearrange chapters,  
5 subchapters, sections, subsections, and subdivisions, or any combination or  
6 portion thereof;

7 (H) Change internal reference numbers to agree with  
8 renumbered chapters, subchapters, sections, subsections, subdivisions, or  
9 portions thereof;

10 (I) Substitute the correct calendar date for "the  
11 effective date of this act" and other phrases of similar import;

12 (J)(i) Correct inaccurate references to:

13 (a) Funds;

14 (b) Fund accounts;

15 (c) The titles of officers;

16 (d) The names of departments or other agencies  
17 of the federal government, the state government, or local governments, and  
18 the names of other entities; and

19 (e) The short titles of other laws; and

20 (ii) Make any other name changes necessary to be  
21 consistent with the laws currently in effect;

22 (K) Alphabetize definitions and make any necessary changes  
23 to conform the definitions sections to Code style and format;

24 (L) Insert or delete hyphens in words so as to follow  
25 correct grammatical usage;

26 (M) Change numerals or symbols to words or vice versa and  
27 add figures or words if they are merely a repetition of written words or vice  
28 versa for purposes of uniformity and style;

29 (N) Change the form of nouns, pronouns, and verbs for  
30 purposes of style and grammar;

31 (O) Correct punctuation;

32 (P) Correct word usage;

33 (Q) Change gender-specific language to gender-neutral  
34 language; and

35 (R) Remove obsolete language.

36 (2) Except as provided in subdivision (d)(1) of this section,

1 the wording, punctuation, and format of sections of acts shall appear in the  
2 Code exactly as enacted by the General Assembly.

3 (3) No law may be removed from the Arkansas Code unless  
4 specifically repealed by the General Assembly.

5 (4) Every section of each act which is required to be codified  
6 shall be codified as a complete section of the Arkansas Code unless otherwise  
7 consented to by the Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research.

8 (5) Sections of acts shall not be combined into the same Code  
9 section unless they are identical or they specifically amend the same Code  
10 section.

11 (6)(A) No section of an act shall be codified in more than one  
12 (1) place in the Arkansas Code without the prior approval of the Director of  
13 the Bureau of Legislative Research.

14 (B) If a section is applicable to more than one (1) title,  
15 chapter, subchapter, or section of the Arkansas Code, it shall be codified in  
16 one (1) section only, unless otherwise consented to by the Director of the  
17 Bureau of Legislative Research, with notes indicating its applicability to  
18 other portions of the Code.

19 (7) The commission shall notify the Legislative Council no later  
20 than the first Friday of each month of the discovery of problems with the  
21 acts or the Code and recommend corrections.

22 (8) The commission shall insert a codifier's note under  
23 appropriate Code sections to alert the reader to conflicting Code provisions  
24 and other problems identified by the commission.

25 (9)(A)(i) The commission shall provide a copy of its conformed  
26 acts to the Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research within one hundred  
27 twenty (120) days after the adjournment of each session of the General  
28 Assembly.

29 (ii) The conformed acts may be provided in an  
30 electronic format.

31 (B) For purposes of subdivision (d)(9)(A) of this section,  
32 "conformed acts" means those documents prepared by the commission indicating  
33 the differences between the codification of the acts and the original forms  
34 of the acts.

35 (10) If the acts of the General Assembly are in markup format,  
36 language overstricken shall not be codified and underlined language shall not

1 be underlined in the Code.

2 (e)(1) Except as provided in subdivision (e)(2) of this section, the  
3 commission shall codify every initiated measure enacted by the people of  
4 Arkansas and every act of each regular and extraordinary session of the  
5 General Assembly.

6 (2) The commission shall not be required to codify the following  
7 language or sections found in initiated measures or acts of the General  
8 Assembly:

- 9 (A) Appropriation language;
- 10 (B) Boilerplate language;
- 11 (C) Codification clauses;
- 12 (D) Effective date language;
- 13 (E) Emergency clauses;
- 14 (F) Expiration date language;
- 15 (G) General repealers;
- 16 (H) Intent, purpose, construction, and applicability  
17 language;
- 18 (I) Language that specifically refers to an appropriation;
- 19 (J) Sections stating that they are not to be codified;
- 20 (K) Sections that the Legislative Council requests that  
21 the commission not codify;
- 22 (L) Local, special, or temporary language; and
- 23 (M) Severability clauses.

24 (f)(1) The ~~commission~~ code revisor is expected to notify the Director  
25 of the Bureau of Legislative Research on an act-by-act basis within one (1)  
26 business day after discovering that a change should be made which requires  
27 the prior approval of the Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research.

28 (2) The Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research is  
29 expected to respond to the ~~commission~~ code revisor within one (1) business  
30 day after receiving notice from the commission.

31 (g)(1) All uncodified local acts, special acts, and temporary acts,  
32 excluding appropriation acts, shall be cumulatively indexed by the commission  
33 using descriptive wording and shall include references to the act numbers and  
34 years of enactment.

35 (2) No later than one hundred twenty (120) days after the  
36 adjournment of each legislative session, the ~~commission~~ code revisor shall



1 provide a report to the Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research and  
2 the Legislative Council identifying which acts and parts of acts of the  
3 session are to be cumulatively indexed pursuant to subdivision (g)(1) of this  
4 section.

5 (h) The Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research may delegate  
6 his or her authority under this section to another employee of the bureau.  
7

8 SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
9 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that this act requires the Bureau  
10 of Legislative Research to assist the Arkansas Code Revision Commission and  
11 transfers the staff of the commission to the bureau; that to effectively  
12 administer this act the transition should occur at the beginning of the next  
13 fiscal year; that the effectiveness of this act on July 1, 2005, is essential  
14 to the operation of the commission; and that in the event of an extension of  
15 the regular session, the delay in the effective date of this act beyond July  
16 1, 2005, could work irreparable harm upon the proper administration of the  
17 preparation of the Arkansas Code. Therefore, an emergency is declared to  
18 exist and this act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace,  
19 health, and safety shall become effective on July 1, 2005.

20  
21 /s/ Harrelson  
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24 APPROVED: 3/29/2005  
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