

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1431

4
5 By: Representative Dotson
6 By: Senator K. Hammer

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING
10 ADMINISTRATIVE RULES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

14 TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING
15 ADMINISTRATIVE RULES.

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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

19
20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 25-15-202(2)(C), concerning definitions
21 applicable to the Administrative Procedure Act, is amended to read as
22 follows:

23 (C)(i) The Except as provided in subdivision (2)(C)(ii) of this
24 section, the word "agency" shall not include the Arkansas Public Service
25 Commission, the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission, the
26 Workers' Compensation Commission, and the Department of Workforce Services,
27 as the existing laws governing those agencies provide adequate administrative
28 procedures for those agencies.

29 (ii) The word "agency" as used in § 25-15-216 shall
30 include the Arkansas Public Service Commission, the Arkansas Pollution
31 Control and Ecology Commission, the Workers' Compensation Commission, and the
32 Department of Workforce Services.

33
34 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 25-15-216 is amended to read as follows:
35 25-15-216. Review of agency rules.

36 (a)(1) As soon as is practicable after each regular session and fiscal



1 session of the General Assembly, each agency shall review any newly enacted
2 laws to determine whether:

- 3 ~~(1)~~(A) Any existing rule should be repealed or amended; or
4 ~~(2)~~(B) Any new rule should be adopted.

5 ~~(b)~~(2) At the conclusion of each review, the agency shall adopt
6 a written report of the result of the review.

7 ~~(e)~~(3) A copy of each report shall be maintained as a public
8 record by the agency.

9 (b)(1) If an agency determines that a newly enacted law requires the
10 repeal or amendment of an existing rule or the adoption of a new rule and the
11 newly enacted law does not provide a specific date for the repeal, amendment,
12 or adoption of the rule, the new, amended, or repealed rule shall be filed
13 with the Secretary of State for adoption under § 25-15-204(f):

14 (A) On or before January 1 of the following year, if the
15 newly enacted law results from a regular or fiscal session of the General
16 Assembly;

17 (B) On or before the one hundred eightieth day following
18 sine die adjournment, if the newly enacted law results from a special session
19 of the General Assembly; or

20 (C) If approval of a rule under § 10-3-309 has not
21 occurred by the date under subdivision(b)(1)(A) or subdivision(b)(1)(B) of
22 this section, as soon as practicable after approval under § 10-3-309.

23 (2) An agency shall file the proposed rule with the Legislative
24 Council, or the Joint Budget Committee if the General Assembly is in regular,
25 fiscal or extraordinary session, under § 10-3-309 sufficiently in advance of
26 the date under subdivision (b)(1)(A) or subdivision (b)(1)(B) of this section
27 so that the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee may consider the
28 rule for approval before the appropriate date.

29
30 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 25, Chapter 15, Subchapter 2, is
31 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

32 25-15-220. Rulemaking power to be narrowly interpreted.

33 (a) As used in this section:

34 (1) "Rule" means a state agency statement of general
35 applicability and future effect that implements, interprets, or prescribes
36 law or policy or describes the organization, procedure, or practice of a

1 state agency; and

2 (2)(A) "State agency" means an office, board, commission,
3 department, council, bureau, governmental entity, or other agency of state
4 government having authority to promulgate or enforce rules.

5 (B) "State agency" includes without limitation the:

6 (i) Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, if the
7 rule is promulgated under authority of a statute enacted by the General
8 Assembly; and

9 (ii) State Highway Commission and the Arkansas
10 Department of Transportation, if the rule is promulgated under authority of a
11 statute enacted by the General Assembly.

12 (C) This section applies to one (1) or more of the
13 following if the Legislative Council adopts rules under § 10-3-309(b)(2)(B)
14 including the respective entity in the definition of "state agency" under §
15 10-3-309(2)(A):

16 (i) Each rule of the Arkansas State Game and Fish
17 Commission;

18 (ii) Each rule of the State Highway Commission and
19 the Arkansas Department of Transportation; and

20 (iii) An institution of higher education.

21 (b) The General Assembly finds that:

22 (1) It is common for acts of the General Assembly to delegate
23 rulemaking authority to a state agency for the purpose of implementing and
24 administering various duties and responsibilities;

25 (2) Broad interpretation of rulemaking authority by a state
26 agency results in the state agency's supplanting the role of the General
27 Assembly by effectively legislating in areas not intended by the General
28 Assembly; and

29 (3) A state agency that has been delegated rulemaking authority
30 should limit its rulemaking to only those areas absolutely necessary and
31 should avoid broad applications or interpretations of its rulemaking power.

32 (c)(1) The authority of a state agency to promulgate a rule when so
33 empowered by an act of the General Assembly shall be narrowly interpreted by
34 the state agency.

35 (2) As part of the narrow interpretation of its rulemaking
36 authority under subdivision (c)(1) of this section, a state agency shall

1 without limitation:

2 (A) Limit its rulemaking to only those areas or subject
3 matters that are absolutely necessary to fulfill its statutory duty or
4 obligations; and

5 (B) Not promulgate a rule that is inconsistent with the
6 legislative intent of an act empowering a state agency to promulgate a rule.

7 (d) A proposed rule that is promulgated based upon a broad
8 interpretation of a state agency's rulemaking power rather than a narrow
9 interpretation of that rulemaking power may be deemed as inconsistent with
10 state law for the purposes § 10-3-309(f)(1).

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