

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

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 225

5 By: Senator M. Pitsch  
6 By: Representative Wing  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAWS CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS  
10 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND THE ARKANSAS  
11 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER  
12 PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

15 TO AMEND THE LAWS CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS  
16 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND THE  
17 ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION.  
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 15-4-204(d), concerning the functions,  
24 powers, and duties of the Arkansas Economic Development Council, is amended  
25 to read as follows:

26 (d) By a majority vote, the council may establish or dissolve  
27 committees and subcommittees as needed.  
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29 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 15-4-205(b)(2), concerning the purpose of  
30 the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, is amended to read as follows:

31 (2) Promote the state with a central focus on state, local, and  
32 regional economic development efforts;  
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34 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 15-4-209(a), concerning the function,  
35 powers, and duties of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, is  
36 amended to read as follows:



1 (a) ~~The~~ In accordance with state and federal law, the Arkansas  
 2 Economic Development Commission shall:

3 (1) Administer grants, loans, cooperative agreements, tax  
 4 credits, guaranties, and other incentives, memoranda of ~~understandings~~  
 5 understanding , and conveyances to assist with economic development in the  
 6 state;

7 (2) In concert with others, periodically develop a strategic  
 8 plan to guide the commission in the pursuit of the commission’s stated  
 9 mission;

10 (3) Cooperate with public and private organizations to advance  
 11 the commission’s goals and objectives as identified in the commission’s most  
 12 recent strategic plan;

13 (4) Administer the Small Cities Community Development Block  
 14 Grant (CDBG) Program with funds received from the ~~federal government~~ United  
 15 States Government;

16 (5) ~~Collaborate with other entities in the formation and~~  
 17 ~~implementation of a state energy plan to guide the state on issues related to~~  
 18 ~~energy supply, energy efficiency, and energy resource development of both~~  
 19 ~~fossil and renewable energy sources~~ Assist rural communities and agencies  
 20 with funding, educational opportunities, and technical assistance to enhance  
 21 the quality of life in rural areas of Arkansas;

22 (6) To the extent that funds are available, assist with the cost  
 23 of infrastructure in the pursuit of new or expanded job creation;

24 (7) Encourage the exportation of Arkansas-produced goods and  
 25 services;

26 (8) Assist ~~small and minority~~ women-owned businesses and  
 27 minority-owned businesses through certification, ~~loans~~ loan guaranties,  
 28 technical assistance, or grants to encourage their growth and development;

29 (9) Provide assistance to cities, counties, and regions as they  
 30 develop and implement ~~their own~~ strategic plans for community and economic  
 31 development;

32 (10) Establish and administer a business and industry training  
 33 program to train both new and existing employees;

34 (11) Cooperate with other international, multistate, regional,  
 35 federal, state, and local efforts aimed at providing resources or assistance  
 36 to economic development;

1 (12) Work with communities and regions to develop ongoing  
2 processes focused on the creation and recruitment of new businesses and the  
3 retention of existing businesses;

4 (13) Utilize all available means of securing financing for  
5 business development statewide;

6 (14) Serve as the state’s focal point for the establishment of  
7 foreign trade zones under the programs offered by the United States  
8 Department of Commerce, including without limitation serving as the grantee  
9 of Foreign Trade Zone 14;

10 (15) Promote innovation and the commercialization of ideas into  
11 viable Arkansas businesses;

12 (16) Highlight the state’s ability to host film projects and  
13 make available resources to assist in building the film industry in the  
14 state;

15 (17) Comply with procedures for the disposal of properties  
16 acquired by the commission;

17 (18) Administer the provisions of Arkansas Constitution,  
18 Amendment 27, providing a limited exemption from certain tax liabilities; ~~and~~

19 (19) Assist in the creation and growth of small businesses; and

20 (20) Carry out any other duties or responsibilities as  
21 designated by the Governor.

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23 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 15-4-219(1)(A), concerning the information  
24 required in the annual report submitted by the Arkansas Economic Development  
25 Commission, is amended to read as follows:

26 (A) Each project that was offered incentives in the  
27 previous calendar year, including without limitation:

28 (i) The number of jobs proposed by each project ~~and~~  
29 ~~the average hourly wage or annual salary for each project;~~

30 (ii) For each job creation project that receives  
31 funds from the Economic Development Incentive Quick Action Closing Fund under  
32 § 19-5-1231, an indication of whether each project contains a repayment  
33 requirement;

34 (iii)(a) Each project that received funds from the  
35 Economic Development Incentive Quick Action Closing Fund under § 19-5-1231.

36 (b) The information reported in subdivision

1 (1)(A)(iii)(a) of this section and any other related information shall be  
2 made available to the Office of Economic and Tax Policy upon request;  
3 (iv) The location of each project; and  
4 (v) ~~The elements of the commission's incentive~~  
5 ~~packages that were used~~ specific incentives offered by the commission;  
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