

# Department of Finance and Administration

## Legislative Impact Statement

Bill: HB1216

As Engrossed: 3/4/2013

Bill Subtitle: AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING THE DISTRIBUTION OF STATE AGENCY PUBLICATIONS.

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### Basic Change :

Representative Linck

The Bill prohibits the excessive reproduction of state agency reports that are being written, printed, and distributed at significant public expense; and to provide for Internet publication as the primary means of publishing state agency reports. Also appears to require all reports submitted to the General Assembly be filed in electronic form and applies to reports also made to the Speaker of the House; The President of Pro Tempore of the Senate; lead sponsor of the authorizing legislation, Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research.

This bill also addresses the distribution of other reports. State agencies shall place a state publication on its website and not distribute a printed state publication except upon request and must be unbound and black and white print. The bill does exempt information pamphlets; promotional brochures, legislative bills; statutes; laws; regulations; press information; FOIs; applications; instructions; guidelines for complying with state and federal laws, regulations or policies; publications of the U of A Cooperative Extension Service; and information, forms, and notices necessary to comply with state tax laws, driver's licensing laws, and motor vehicle registration and titling laws.

AS AMENDED 2/21 –? DFA instead of the Legislative Council would be required to collect and submit a report compiling the individual reports submitted by agencies in the prior two years and the number and cost of producing unbound black and white publications. This exempts General Assembly or the divisions, commissions, and bureaus operating under the authority of the General Assembly.

AS AMENDED 3/4- replaced publications of the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service with the Publications of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture; and adds to the list of publications, Financial Reports already required by a (A) Governing board if the rules, procedures, or bylaws of the governing board as of January 1, 2013, required a printed financial report; (B) Bond rating agency; (C) Bond trustee; or (D) Financial institution.

### Revenue Impact :

It appears the legislation is to reduce the cost of printing/publishing state reports and publications in paper. The revenue impact would be the savings in what is currently spent on production and distribution of paper documents, less the electronic conversion and web publishing costs.

### Taxpayer Impact :

For items not exempt on the list of publications, the taxpayer would have to access state agency websites for publications or request a printed copy directly from the agency.

### Resources Required :

Minimal

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### Time Required :

Unknown at the individual agency level. For DFA reporting portion of this bill, minimal since already have a similar process in place that can be changed to include this information.

### Procedural Changes :

State agencies shall place a state publication on its website and not distribute a printed state publication except upon request and must be unbound and black and white print. A state agency shall compile a mailing list of persons requesting publications distributed by the state agency. Before distributing a state publication, the state agency shall send by mail a card to each person on the mailing list requesting the person to return the card to the state agency if the person wishes to receive an unbound, black-and-white copy of the publication. The card shall include the address of the website on which the publication is located. **(Concern here is this could be costly and time consuming for agencies with large numbers of non-exempt publications and may not be an overall cost savings to the agency).**

Additionally, the amended bill does not identify an office within DFA tasked with producing the report but it appears if DFA Office of Budget amends the current report they provide General Assembly to comply with ACA 25-1-204 (Publications to be included in agency budget) to include new requirements of reporting the number of unbound black and white publications and cost of producing publications for each state agency, DFA will comply with the changes they are responsible for in this bill.

### Other Comments :

None

### Legal Analysis :

None