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ARKANSAS FIRE PROTECTION LICENSING BOARD RULES FOR PORTABLE/FIXED SYSTEMS

SECTION 1. PURPOSE, TITLE, APPLICABILITY, NOTICE AND SEVERABILITY

- 1.1. PURPOSE. The purpose of these rules is to regulate persons engaged in the business of selling, installing, and servicing portable fire extinguishers or fixed fire protection systems and to provide for the registration and licensure of businesses and persons providing these services, in order to protect and promote public safety by minimizing personal injury and property damages which might result from inadequate, unreliable, unsafe or improperly installed or maintained portable fire extinguishers and fixed fire protection systems.
- 1.2. TITLE. These rules shall be known and may be cited as the "Portable/Fixed Systems Rules" and shall be administered by and through the Board.
- 1.3. APPLICABILITY OF RULES. The rules shall apply to all firms and individuals engaged in the business of selling, installing, and servicing portable extinguishers or fixed fire protection systems and performing hydrostatic testing, except those specifically exempt by A.C.A. §§ 20-22-601 et seq.
- 1.4. NOTICE. Notice by the Board as required by any provision of statute or of these rules must be given by personal service or mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the person to be notified at his last known address of residence or business as it appears in the Board's records.
- 1.5. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of these rules or the application thereof to any firm, person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason the invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or any other application of these rules which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or application. To this end all provisions of these rules are declared to be severable.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.

- 2.1. Apprentice a qualified person enrolled as required in an apprenticeship program recognized by the Board, and who may perform work entitled by the licensee under the direct supervision of a licensed employee.
- 2.2. Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) The organization, office or individual responsible for enforcing the requirements of a code or standard, or for approving equipment, materials, an installation, or a procedure.

- 2.3 Branch office an office that has a different location but the same name and tax identification number as the primary applicant. If a certified firm obtained a certificate of registration for a separate business location(s) or office(s) on or before the effective date of this rule, the Board will consider that separate business location or office to be a branch office as defined by these rules.
- 2.4. Certificate the certificate of registration issued by the Board to a firm for the purpose of granting permission to such firm to perform any act for which the law requires a certificate of registration.
- 2.5. Certified Firm any business owned by an individual, partnership, corporation or association holding a current certificate of registration issued by the Board.
- 2.6. Fixed fire protection system fire extinguisher or fire suppression systems, including without limitation:
 - A. Fire extinguishing or fire suppression systems installed to protect the hoods and ductwork of exhaust systems designed for the removal of smoke and grease-laden vapors from commercial cooking equipment; and
 - B. Listed or approved fire protection systems or suppression systems installed and maintained according to the standards adopted in the rules of the Arkansas Fire Protection Licensing Board.
- 2.7. Hydrostatic Testing pressure testing by hydrostatic methods.
- 2.8. License a written document issued by the Board to an individual for the purpose of granting permission to such individual to perform any act for which the law requires a license.
- 2.9. Licensee a specific individual to whom a license or permit has been issued by the Board; a specific firm to which a certificate of registration has been issued by the Board.
- 2.10. NFPA National Fire Protection Association, Inc., a nationally recognized standard-making organization.
- 2.11. Portable Fire Extinguisher any device that contains within it chemicals, fluids, powder, liquids or gases for extinguishing fires.
- 2.12. Recharge to fill a portable fire extinguisher or a fixed fire protection system with a charge the second and all succeeding times the system is serviced.

- 2.13. Repair any work performed on or to any portable fire extinguisher or fixed fire protection system and not defined as charging, recharging, hydrostatic testing or inspecting.
- 2.14. Service Tag a tag on a portable fire extinguisher or fixed fire protection system that serves as evidence that some action was performed by a licensee.
- 2.15. Test to subject any portable fire extinguisher or fixed fire protection system to any procedure necessary to ensure its proper operation or installation.
- 2.16. Service–physically install portable fire extinguisher or fixed fire protection systems by charging, filling, maintaining, re-charging, refilling, repairing, hanging, locating or re-testing (including hydrostatic testing).
- 2.17. Standards nationally recognized standards adopted herein.

SECTION 3. STANDARDS

- 3.1. The Board adopts the current edition of the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code in its entirety, along with the reference standards noted in the reference section.
- 3.2. All portable fire extinguishers and fixed fire protection systems installed or serviced in this State shall comply with A.C.A. §§ 20-22-601 et seq., these rules, manufacturer's specifications, local ordinances and requirements, and the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code.
- 3.3. Extinguisher Sales No portable fire extinguishers shall be sold, leased, serviced or recharged in the State of Arkansas unless labeled and/or_or_listed by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., Factory Mutual System or other nationally recognized testing laboratory that is approved by the Arkansas Fire Protection Licensing Board or the Office of the State Fire Marshal.
- 3.4. After December 31, 2007 nNo dry chemical restaurant fire systems may be serviced for any reason and must be Red Tagged.
- 3.5. After December 31, 2007 nN on-UL 300 systems may not be serviced for any reason and must be Red Tagged.
- 3.6. All dry chemical stored pressure fire extinguishers manufactured prior to October 1984 shall be removed from service no later than January 1, 2015.

SECTION 4. REGISTRATION AND LICENSING

- 4.1. A licensee shall not knowingly mischaracterize a competitor's product.
- 4.2. The falsification of a certification of registration, license or permit renders the document invalid and is grounds for administrative action pursuant to A.C.A. §§ 20-22-601 et seq.
- 4.3. A firm cannot be certified for types of systems without a licensed individual(s) employed by the firm who is trained and licensed for the same type(s) as the firm. A person holding a valid license shall not be authorized to perform any act unless employed by a certified firm.
- 4.4. Certified firms shall be held responsible for the acts of their agents and employees for purposes of these rules, including the taking of administrative action by the Board.
- 4.5. A certificate of registration or license may be denied, suspended, revoked, non-renewed, or otherwise penalized if, after notice and public hearing, the Board finds that a licensee or applicant has violated any of the provisions of Ark. Code Ann. § 20-22-601 et seq. or these rules.
- 4.6. A certificate of registration issued pursuant to these rules shall not be transferred from one firm to another. A license issued pursuant to these rules shall not be transferred from one individual to another.
- 4.7. A certificate of registration or license does not authorize a licensee to enforce these rules or enter any building or property without the owner's permission.
- 4.8. Licensees shall not permit the use of their license by other persons or firms.
- 4.9. A. A licensed individual must be an employee of a certified firm and shall only work for one certified firm at a time.
 - B. A licensed individual may perform only those acts authorized by the firm's certificate of registration.
 - C. A licensee may perform only those acts authorized by his license.
 - D. A certified firm may agree to perform work that the firm is not certified to perform if the firm subcontracts the work to a firm certified by this Board to perform the necessary work.
- 4.10. For a fee, the Board may issue a duplicate certificate of registration, license, or permit to replace one previously issued if the licensee submits to the Board a written statement attesting to the fact that the certificate, license, or permit has been lost or destroyed.

- 4.11. Firm Certificate of Registration.
 - A. The Board issues firm certificates of registration for the following systems:
 - i. Portable Fire Extinguisher
 - ii. Fixed Fire Protection System
 - iii. Hydro Class "A"
 - iv. Hydro Class "B"
 - B. The Fire Protection Licensing Board shall not issue a certificate of registration if the name of the firm might confuse the public. A firm that intends to apply for a certification of registration should contact the Board concerning the acceptability of the proposed firm name.
 - C. A firm that wants to apply for a certificate of registration must submit a written verified application to the Board. The application must be completed in full on the Board's form and submitted as follows:
 - i. The required fees must be submitted with the application.
 - ii. If the applicant is a business entity, the application must be accompanied by evidence of registration with the Arkansas Secretary of State.
 - iii. The application must include an individual application for each employee who is required to be licensed.
 - iv. The application must include a sample (not a copy) of the firm's service tag, red tag, and verification of service collar. If changes are made to the design of the service tag or red tag, a sample of the new revised tag must be forwarded to the Board office. A sample of the current service tag and current red tag must be on file with the Board at all times.
 - v. The application must include a copy of the firm's liability insurance declarations page that meets the requirements of A.C.A. § 20-22-611. Each certified firm shall maintain in force and on file in the Board's office the proof of insurance as required. Failure to do so will be grounds for the emergency suspension of the firm's certificate, pursuant to A.C.A. 25-15-211.
 - vi. The firm shall either be certified for Class A or Class B hydrostatic testing or supply a letter from a firm certified by this Board asserting it will perform the

work for the firm. As such, unless an applicant is applying for a Class B certificate, an application must include one of the following:

- a. A firm can only be licensed for Class A provided they have been approved and assigned a number by DOT. A copy of the DOT letter must accompany the application.
- b. A firm that does not intend to become certified to perform hydrostatic testing must submit a letter from a firm licensed by this Board to do hydrostatic testing stating that the certified firm will perform any necessary hydrostatic testing for the applicant firm. If the letter of performance is ever withdrawn or cancelled, the firm relying on in must submit a replacement letter from another certified firm to the Board office within 20 days from the date of withdrawal/cancellation.
- vii. The application must include written authorization by the firm permitting any person authorized by the Board to enter, examine, and inspect any premises, building, room, or establishment used by the firm in order for the Board to determine compliance with the Board's statutes and rules.
- viii. The application must be signed by the sole proprietor, or each partner, or by an officer of the corporation.
- C. When all requirements are met, the Board will issue a certificate of registration for a firm's main office and also for any branch office(s) with the respective name and address specified on the certificate. A certified firm must pay a fee for each additional certificate of registration issued to a branch office.
- D. The certified firm must post at each location the certificate of registration for that particular location.
- E. If a certified firm changes the name, address, or phone number of any of its offices, the firm shall notify the Board within fourteen (14) days after such change by submitting the required form and paying the required fee. If necessary, the Board will then issue a new certificate of registration and new individual license(s) that reflect the new information.
- F. Change in ownership. The change of a firm's ownership invalidates the current certificate. A firm must submit an application for a new certificate at least fourteen (14) days prior to a change in ownership, accompanied by the required fee.

- i. If the firm's name changes as a result of the change in ownership, the firm must submit with the application all documentation described in Section-4.12.C 4.11.C. Upon approval, the Board will issue a new certificate of registration to the firm and new individual licenses to the licensed employees that reflect the firm's new name.
- ii. If the firm's name does not change, the firm must submit all documentation described in Section 4.12.C.4.11.C. except for the individual license applications in 4.12.C.iii 4.11.C.iii. Upon approval, the board will issue a new certificate of registration to the firm and the individual licensees may continue to operate under their existing licenses.

4.12. Individual License:

- A. The Board issues individual licenses for the following types of portable and fixed systems:
 - i. Portable Fire Extinguisher
 - ii. Fixed Fire Protection System Carbon Dioxide Systems
 - iii. Fixed Fire Protection System Wet/Dry Systems
 - iv. Fixed Fire Protection System Clean Agent Systems
 - v. Fixed Fire Protection System Halon Systems
 - vi. Hydro Class "A"
 - vii. Hydro Class "B"
- B. To be licensed, an individual must be employed by a certified firm, meet the requirements described in these rules, submit the required fee and a fully-completed licensing application using the Board's form, and pass an examination for each type of system the applicant intends to work on.
- C. If the applicant is applying for Class A hydrostatic testing, the application must include a copy of the current DOT approval letter.

D. Examinations

- i. An applicant must submit his application prior to testing.
- ii. Examinations shall be given at least once per month at a place to be determined by the Board. Individuals should contact the Board to schedule testing.
- iii. An applicant must pass two open-book examinations, which are:
 - a. An examination applicable to the system the applicant wants to be licensed for. This examination will be based on NFPA standards and is described on the Board's website.

- b. An examination covering the Board's statutes and rules.
- iv. A minimum grade of 80% is required to pass any examination. Applicants obtaining a minimum grade of 80% will be issued a license endorsed with the type of service qualified by the examination.
- v. An applicant who fails an examination may re-take the examination after payment of an exam re-take fee.
- E. After all requirements have been met, the Board will issue a wall license and a pocket-sized license (or permit, as applicable) to each individual licensee. The certified firm that employs the licensed individual shall post the license conspicuously on the premises of the firm's primary location. A licensee must keep his pocket license or permit on his person at all times while performing the work for which he is licensed.
- F. An individual license may be transferred to a new certified firm by filing a transfer application with the required fees and documents. An authorized representative of the new employing firm must sign the transfer application.
- G. An individual licensee shall report any change in home address to the Board within 14 days.

H. Apprentice Permit.

New employees of certified firms may apply for an apprentice permit by submitting the required application and payment of the required fee.

- i. The permit shall be valid for one (1) year from the date of issuance and shall not be renewed. An apprentice shall not continue to work as an apprentice after his permit expires.
- ii. An apprentice, under the direct supervision of a licensee authorized to perform the work, may perform the work allowed by his firm's certificate of registration.
- iii. All requirements applicable to licenses also apply to apprentice permits unless these rules state otherwise.

I. Reciprocity

- i. Required Qualifications. An applicant applying for reciprocal licensure shall meet the following requirements:
 - a. The applicant shall hold in good standing in another U.S. jurisdiction a license that is substantially similar to the type of license for which the individual is applying in Arkansas;
 - b. The applicant shall hold his or her occupational licensure in good standing;
 - c. The applicant shall not have had a license revoked for:

- (1) An act of bad faith; or
- (2) A violation of law, rule, or ethics;
- d. The applicant shall not hold a suspended or probationary license in a U.S. jurisdiction;
- e. The applicant shall be sufficiently competent in the field of portable fire extinguishers and/or- or fixed fire protection systems.
- ii. Required documentation. An applicant shall submit a fully-executed application, the required fee, and the documentation described below.
 - a. As evidence that the applicant's license from another jurisdiction is in good standing and is substantially similar to Arkansas's, the applicant shall submit evidence of current and active licensure in that state. The Board may verify this information online or by telephone.
 - b. To demonstrate that the applicant has not had a license revoked for bad faith or a violation of law, rule, or ethics, as required by subsection 4.12.I.i.c., and that the applicant does not hold a license on suspended or probationary status, as required by subsection 4.12.I.i.d.the applicant shall provide the Board with:
 - (1) The names of all states in which the applicant is currently licensed or has been previously licensed;
 - (2) Letters of good standing or other information from each state in which the applicant is currently or has ever been licensed showing that the applicant has not had his license revoked for the reasons listed in subsection 4.12.Li.c. and does not hold a license on suspended or probationary status as described in 4.12.Li.d. The Board may verify this information online or by telephone.
 - c. As evidence that the applicant is sufficiently competent in the field of portable fire extinguishers and/or_or_fixed fire protection systems, the applicant shall pass the Arkansas state examination.

iii. Temporary and Provisional License

- a. The Board's Director shall issue a temporary license immediately upon receipt of the required fee and the documentation required to show that the applicant has a license from another jurisdiction that is in good standing and is substantially similar to the Arkansas license for which the applicant is applying.
- b. An applicant shall submit a completed the application with all required remaining documentation in order to receive a license.
- c. The temporary license shall be effective for 90 days or until the Board makes a decision on the application, whichever occurs first.

- J. Applicants from States that Do Not License Profession
 - i. Required Qualifications. An applicant from a state that does not license the fire protection sprinkler system field shall be sufficiently competent in the field of portable fire extinguishers and/or or fixed fire protection.
 - ii. Required documentation.
 - a. An applicant shall submit a fully-executed application and the required fee; and
 - b. As evidence that the applicant is sufficiently competent in the fire protection sprinkler system field an applicant shall:
 - (1) Pass the applicable examination based on NFPA standards; and
 - (2) Pass the Arkansas state examination.

K. Expedited Military Licensure

- i. Definitions: As used in this subsection:
 - a. "Uniformed service member" means:
 - (1) An active or reserve component member of the United States

 Air Force, United States Army, United States Coast Guard, United

 States Marine Corps, United States Navy, United States Space Force,
 or National Guard;
 - (2) An active component member of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps; or
 - (3) An active or reserve component member of the United States

 Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service; and
 - b. As used in this subsection, "uniformed service veteran" means a former member of the United States uniformed services discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.
- ii. The Board shall grant expedited licensure to an applicant who is:
 - a. A uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas;
- b. A uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; or
 - c. The spouse of:
 - (1) A person under subsection ii.a. or b above;
- (2) A uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the uniformed service member's spouse from accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; or
- (3) A uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in the state.
 - iii. The Board shall grant such expedited licensure upon receipt of all of the below:
 - a. Payment of the initial licensure fee;

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and

b. An application showing the applicant meets the licensure requirements described in this rule;

c. Evidence that the applicant is a qualified applicant under subsection ii. above;

d. Evidence that the applicant has passed the required examinations.

iii. Military Temporary License

- a. The Board's Director shall issue a temporary license immediately upon receipt of the fee and the other documentation described in subsection iii, a., b., and c. above.
- b. The temporary license shall be effective for 90 days or until applicant provides the document required in subsection iii.d. showing the applicant has passed the required examinations.

iv. The expiration date of a license for a deployed uniform service member or spouse will be extended for one hundred and eighty (180) days following the date of the uniformed service member's return from deployment.

SECTION 5. FEE SCHEDULE AND RENEWALS

- 5.1. Every fee required by A.C.A.. §§ 20-22-601 et seq. and these rules shall be paid in accordance with instructions on the Board's website.
- 5.2. Fees shall be as follows:

Initial Firm Certificate of Registration:

Portable	\$300.00
Fixed	\$300.00
Class A	\$100.00
Class B	\$ 50.00

Firm Certificate of Registration Renewal:

Portable \$300.00 Fixed \$300.00 Class A \$100.00 Class B \$50.00

Individual Licensing (includes first exam):

Portable \$ 60.00 Fixed \$ 60.00 Class A \$ 60.00 **Formatted:** Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt **Formatted:** Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt

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Class B	\$ 60	0.00
Renewal Individual License:		
Portable	\$ 30	0.00
Fixed	\$ 30	0.00
Class A	\$ 15	5.00
Class B	\$ 10	0.00
Other fees:		
Exam Re-Take Fee	\$ 25	5.00
Transfer/Change/Duplicate	\$ 25	5.00
Branch office	\$ 25	5.00
Apprentice Permit		5.00
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- 5.3. Certificates of registration and licenses must be renewed annually before the expiration date of September 30th. The required fees and documentation must be submitted along with each application for renewal.
- 5.4. A renewal application accompanied by the required renewal fee and deposited with the United States Postal Service is deemed timely filed, regardless of actual date of delivery, when

its envelope bears a legible postmark date that is on or before the expiration date of the document being renewed.

- 5.5. A certificate or license expired for two (2) years or more cannot be renewed. A person whose license has been expired for two years or more and who applies for a new license must take and pass another examination(s), unless otherwise specified herein. No examination is required for a license renewed within two years of expiration.
- 5.6. A certificate or license expired for less than two (2) years may be renewed by payment of a fee calculated in accordance with the following schedule:

Expired 1-90 days renewal fee x 1.5 Expired 91-365 days renewal fee x 2 Expired 366-729 days renewal fee x 3

5.7. Anyone applying for re-licensure who meets the conditions established in A.C.A.§ 17-1-107 and can demonstrate that he or she passed the applicable examination(s) with

scores sufficient for licensure at the time the individual's initial license was issued shall not be required to re-take the examination(s) in order to be relicensed.

5.8 Initial Fee Waiver for Eligible Applicants

- A. Pursuant to Act 725 of 2021, an applicant may receive a waiver of the initial licensure fee, if eligible. Eligible applicants are individuals who:
 - i. Are receiving assistance through the Arkansas, or current state of residence equivalent, Medicaid Program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (SSNP), the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (TEA), or the Lifeline Assistance Program (LAP);
 - ii. Were approved for unemployment within the last twelve (12) months; or
 - iii. Have an income that does not exceed two hundred percent (200%) of the federal poverty income guidelines.
- B. Applicants shall provide documentation showing their receipt of benefits from the appropriate state agency.
 - i. For Medicaid, SNAP, SSNP, TEA, or LAP, documentation from the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS), or current state of residence equivalent agency;
 - ii. For unemployment benefits approval in the last twelve (12) months, the

 Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, or current state of residence equivalent agency; or
 - iii. For proof of income, copies of all United States Internal Revenue Service

 Forms indicating applicant's total personal income for the most recent tax year e.g., "W2," "1099," etc.
- C. Applicants shall attest that the documentation provided under subsection B. is a true and correct copy and fraudulent or fraudulently obtained documentation shall be grounds for denial or revocation of license.

SECTION 6: PROCEDURES

As a minimum standard, the following procedures shall be performed each time that the designated type of service is performed.

- 6.1. Monthly inspection:
 - A. The licensee shall determine that the fire extinguisher is in its designated place and that there are no obstructions to its accessibility.
 - B. The licensee shall determine that the fire extinguisher has not been actuated or tampered with.

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- C. The licensee shall determine that there is no obvious physical damage, clogged or obstructed hose or nozzle, or other condition that could prevent the proper operation of the fire extinguisher.
- D. The licensee shall determine that the pressure gauge or indicator is in the operable range or position. Operate push-to-test indicator on non-rechargeable fire extinguishers.
- E. The licensee shall determine the fullness of self-expelling, cartridge-operated and pump tank fire extinguishers by weighing or hefting..
- F. The licensee shall determine the condition of the tires, wheels, carriage, hose and nozzle on wheeled-type fire extinguishers.
- G. The licensee shall initial in ink and date the monthly service tag.

6.2. Annual Maintenance:

Annual maintenance entails a thorough examination of the fire extinguisher to give maximum assurance that a fire extinguisher will operate effectively and safely. Annual maintenance includes a thorough examination for physical damage or any condition that could prevent its operation, along with any necessary repair or replacement. As a minimum standard, the following procedures shall be performed:

- A. The licensee shall perform the monthly inspections steps described in 6.1.A. through G.
- B. The licensee must remove the tamper seal of a rechargeable fire extinguisher by operating the pull pin or locking device and installing a new tamper seal.
- C. The licensee must complete, punch out the applicable areas, initial in ink, and install a new service tag on the fire extinguisher.

6.3. Six-Year Maintenance.

Every six (6) years, stored pressure fire extinguishers that require a twelve (12) year hydrostatic test shall be emptied and subjected to the applicable maintenance procedures described in the manufacturer's service manual.

SECTION 7. REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE TAGS

7.1. General Requirements.

Every tag attached to a fire extinguisher or a fixed fire protection system serviced by a certified firm shall be a tag conforming to these rules.

- A. Tags shall be between 5 ¼ inches and 5 1/2 inches in height and 2 5/8 inches nomore than 5 ½ inches in height and no less than 5 ½ inches in width. Service tags shall be any color EXCEPT RED.
- B. One service tag shall be attached to each portable fire extinguisher in such a position as to be conveniently inspected, but not to hamper the operation or removal of the extinguisher from the bracket. One service tag shall be attached to each fixed

fire protection system in such a position to be conveniently inspected, but not to hamper the operation of the system.

- C. The service tag may be printed or otherwise established for any number of years not in excess of five (5) years.
- D. Service tags shall bear the following information.
 - i. Servicing firm's name;
 - ii. Address of servicing firm;
 - iii. Certificate of registration number;
 - iv. Type of service performed (See F. below);
 - v. Date service was performed (See F. below);
 - vi. License number of the individual performing or supervising the service and services performed;
 - vii. Apprentice permit number;
 - viii. A printed statement **DO NOT REMOVE BY ORDER OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL** in bold type with a font size not less than 16; and
 - ix. Signature or initials of service person. Signature or initials must be handwritten in INK at the time of service.
- E. A new service tag must be attached to a fire extinguisher or fixed fire protection system each time service is performed.
- F. The date of service and type of service performed must be indicated by a perforation such as a hand punch on the appropriate section of the tag.
- G. No person shall remove the service tag except when further service is performed. No person or persons shall deface, modify or alter any required service tag attached to any portable fire extinguisher or fixed fire protection system.
- 7.2. Requirements for Red Tags
 - A. A red tag on a portable fire extinguisher or fixed fire protection system means that the extinguisher or system does not conform to the minimum standards and is not acceptable for use in the case of emergency operation.
 - B. Red tags shall be no more and no less than between 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches and 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height and 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches in width.
 - C. Red tags shall be marked as "impaired" or "condemned" based on the following guidelines:

- i. Impaired means a fixed fire protection system or portable fire extinguisher does not meet the applicable minimum standards but the condition causing the impairment is correctable.
- ii. Condemned means a fixed fire protection system or portable fire extinguisher does not meet the applicable minimum standards and it cannot be repaired or corrected.
- D. If a fixed fire protection system is red tagged for any reason, the owner or occupant shall be immediately notified and the local AHJ or State Fire Marshal's Office shall be notified within 24 hours, either by telephone or in writing. A copy of the inspection report and/or-and a copy of the completed tags shall be provided to the AHJ by mail, fax, e-mail, or in person, within 5 business days of the inspection.
- E. Red tags shall bear the following information:
 - i. Name and address of the servicing firm;
 - ii. Certificate of registration number of the servicing firm;
 - iii. A section to clearly label "Impaired" or "Condemned";
 - iv. Name and address of the owner of the fixed fire protection system or portable fire extinguisher;
 - v. Date of service;
 - vi. License number and initials or name of the licensee "impairing" or "condemning" the unit. Name or initials must be handwritten in ink at the time of service;
 - vii. A printed statement 'DO NOT REMOVE BY ORDER OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL" in bold print type with font size not less than 16; and
 - viii. A statement explaining to why the unit is impaired or condemned.
- F. If the system was impaired and the impairing condition(s) is corrected, the red tag may be removed by:
 - i. A member of the State Fire Marshal's office;
 - ii. Local fire marshal;
 - iii. Authorized and licensed employee of a certified firm; or
 - iv. Members of the Arkansas Fire Protection Licensing Board.
- 7.3. Verification of Service Collar
 - A. A portable fire extinguisher that has undergone internal examination or has been recharged shall have a "Verification of Service" collar located around

the neck of the container.

- B. The following types of portable fire extinguisher do not require a verification of service collar:
 - i. Cartridge/ or cylinder-operated fire extinguishers; and
 - ii. Extinguishers capable of or allowed to be recharged without removal of the valve assembly (CO2 or Halon).
- C. The collar shall be made of a durable rigid polymer material. Collars made of high- density polyethylene or other non-rigid materials shall not be acceptable or approved. The smallest applicable collar size shall be installed on the neck of each extinguisher. The collar shall contain a single circular piece of uninterrupted material forming a hole of a size that will not permit the collar assembly to move over the neck of the container unless the valve is completely removed. The collar shall not interfere with the operation of fire extinguisher.
- D. The Verification of Service collar shall include the month and year the service was performed, indicated by a hand-punch perforation.
- 7.4. Recharge Record Keeping. Each fire extinguisher shall have a tag or label (six year maintenance or hydrostatic test) securely attached indicating the month and year recharging was performed and that identifies the person performing the service. In accordance with NFPA 10 and Section 7.3 above, a verification of service (maintenance or re-charging) collar shall also be attached to the extinguisher.

SECTION 8. BOARD MEETINGS

- 8.1. The Arkansas Fire Protection Licensing Board will conduct at least four (4) regular meetings per year. Special meetings of the Board may be called at any time by a majority of the Board or at the discretion of the Chairman of the Board.
- 8.2. The Chairman of the Board will preside at all meetings. The Co-Chairman will preside in the Chairman's absence.
- 8.3. Any person desiring to appear before the Board shall, at least 15 days prior to such meeting, file with the Board a written request therefore, in which the nature and purpose of the appearance shall be clearly and concisely stated to fully apprise the Board of the basis and extent of such business. An estimate of time needed must be stated on the request.
- 8.4. The Board shall arrange the order of business of all meetings of the Board and shall at least ten (10) days prior thereto notify all persons who are to appear before any such meeting the place and approximate time to appear before the Board.

- 8.5. The Chairman may establish such committees as shall be necessary to carry out the affairs and further the purposes of the Board. The Chairman shall appoint the membership to all committees.
- 8.6. Complaints. Complaints must be submitted to the Board in written form. The Board staff will date stamp the complaint and a complaint number will be assigned when received in the Board office.
- 8.7. Investigations. The Board may, on its own motion, initiate investigation. The Board or a designated Board committee will review the complaint and determine whether the allegations fall within the Board's jurisdiction and whether to proceed to investigate the allegations. Once the investigation is complete, the Board or a designated Board committee will determine whether there is sufficient evidence to make a *prima facie* case that the Board's statutes or rules have been violated.
- 8.8. Hearings. If it is determined that there is a *prima facie* case, the Board or a designated Board committee will either issue a Notice of Hearing or invoke the alternate proceedings described in section 8.9. All hearings will be conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, A.C.A. §§ 25-15-201, et seq.
- 8.9. Alternate Proceedings.

A. If the Board or the Board's designated committee determines that the violations, if proved, would not warrant license suspension, revocation or a fine greater than one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars, the committee may recommend the complaint be

handled in a summary manner. The decision will be referred to the Board Chairman for acceptance or rejection.

B. If the Board Chairman approves the use of alternate proceedings, the respondent will be notified that he has violated the Board's law and that the Board proposes a fine of one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars or less. The notice will further inform the respondent that he has a right to reject the proposed fine and have a full evidentiary hearing.

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law. Act 135 of the Regular Session

1 2	State of Arkansas As Engrossed: $S1/19/21 S1/26/21$ 93rd General Assembly $As Engrossed: Bill$
3	Regular Session, 2021 SENATE BILL 78
4	Regular Session, 2021 SEIVATE BIEE 76
5	By: Senators Hill, D. Wallace, T. Garner, Irvin, J. Hendren, J. English, Flippo
6	By: Representatives Lynch, Cozart, Brown, Evans
7	
8	For An Act To Be Entitled
9	AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS OCCUPATIONAL
10	LICENSING OF UNIFORMED SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS, AND
11	SPOUSES ACT OF 2021; TO MODIFY THE AUTOMATIC
12	OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR UNIFORMED
13	SERVICES MEMBERS, RETURNING UNIFORMED SERVICES
14	VETERANS, AND THEIR SPOUSES; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY;
15	AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
16	
17	
18	Subtitle
19	TO ESTABLISH ARKANSAS OCCUPATIONAL
20	LICENSING OF UNIFORMED SERVICE MEMBERS,
21	VETERANS, AND SPOUSES ACT OF 2021; AND TO
22	DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.
23	
24	
25	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
26	
27	SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-1-106 is repealed.
28	17-1-106. Automatic licensure for active duty service members,
29	returning military veterans, and spouses - Definitions.
30	(a) As used in this section:
31	(1) "Automatic licensure" means the granting of occupational
32	licensure without an individual's having met occupational licensure
33	requirements provided under this title or by the rules of the occupational
34	licensing entity;
35	(2) "Occupational licensing entity" means an office, board,
36	commission, department, council, bureau, or other agency of state government

1 having authority to license, certify, register, permit, or otherwise 2 authorize an individual to engage in a particular occupation or profession; 3 (3) "Occupational licensure" means a license, certificate, 4 registration, permit, or other form of authorization required by law or rule 5 that is required for an individual to engage in a particular occupation or 6 profession; and 7 (4) "Returning military veteran" means a former member of the 8 United States Armed Forces who was discharged from active duty under 9 circumstances other than dishonorable. 10 (b)(1) An occupational licensing entity shall grant automatic 11 licensure to engage in an occupation or profession to an individual who is 12 the holder in good standing of a substantially equivalent occupational 13 license issued by another state, territory, or district of the United States 14 and is: 15 (A) An active duty military service member stationed in 16 the State of Arkansas; 17 (B) A returning military veteran applying for licensure 18 within one (1) year of his or her discharge from active duty; or 19 (C) The spouse of a person under subdivisions (b)(1)(A) 20 and (b)(1)(B) of this section. 21 (2) However, an occupational licensing entity shall be required 22 to provide automatic licensure if the proposed rules are not approved as 23 required under subdivision (d)(2) of this section. (c) An occupational licensing entity may submit proposed rules 24 25 recommending an expedited process and procedure for occupational licensure 26 instead of automatic licensure as provided under subsection (b) of this 27 section to the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council. 28 (d) The Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council 29 shall: 30 (1) Review the proposed rules of an occupational licensing entity as submitted for public comment and at least thirty (30) days before 31 32 the public comment period ends under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure 33 Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.; and 34 (2) Approve the proposed rules submitted under subsection (c) of 35 this section based on: 36 (A) A determination of whether the expedited process and

1	procedure provide the least restrictive means of accomplishing occupational
2	licensure; and
3	(B) Any other criteria the Administrative Rules
4	Subcommittee of the Legislative Council determines necessary to achieve the
5	objectives of this section.
6	(e) The Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council
7	may:
8	(1) Establish a subcommittee to assist in the duties assigned
9	under this section;
10	(2) Assign information filed with the Administrative Rules
11	Subcommittee of the Legislative Council under this section to one (1) or mor
12	subcommittees of the Legislative Council, including without limitation a
13	subcommittee created under subdivision (e)(1) of this section; or
14	(3) Delegate its duties under this section to one (1) or more
15	subcommittees of the Legislative Council, subject to final review and
16	approval of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council
17	(f) An occupational licensing entity shall:
18	(1) Submit proposed rules authorized under subsection (c) of
19	this section to the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative
20	Council for review and approval before the proposed rules are promulgated
21	under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.; and
22	(2) Provide to the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth
23	Legislative and Military Affairs an annual report stating the number of
24	automatic licenses and expedited occupational licenses granted under this
25	section to:
26	(A) Active duty military service members stationed in the
27	State of Arkansas;
28	(B) Returning military veterans applying within one (1)
29	year of their discharge from active duty; or
30	(C) The spouse of a person under subdivisions $(f)(2)(A)$
31	and (f)(2)(B) of this section.
32	
33	SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 1, is amended to add an
34	additional chapter to read as follows:
35	Chapter 4 - Arkansas Occupational Licensing of Uniformed Service Members,
36	Veterans, and Spouses Act of 2021

1			
2	17-4-101. Title.		
3	This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas		
4	Occupational Licensing of Uniformed Service Members, Veterans, and Spouses		
5	Act of 2021".		
6			
7	17-4-102. Legislative findings and intent.		
8	(a) The General Assembly finds that:		
9	(1) Arkansas sets the bar as a national leader in addressing		
10	employment barriers faced by uniformed service members, uniformed service		
11	veterans, and their spouses in attaining occupational licensure;		
12	(2) Arkansas is one (1) of only four (4) states to successfully		
13	address eight (8) or more of the ten (10) issues affecting uniformed service		
14	families identified by the United States Department of Defense;		
15	(3) Of the United States Department of Defense's ten (10) issues		
16	in fiscal year 2020, four (4) of the issues concern occupational licensure of		
17	spouses of uniformed service members;		
18	(4) Annually, fourteen and a half percent (14.5%) of spouses of		
19	uniformed service members move across state lines as opposed to one and one-		
20	tenth percent (1.1%) of civilians;		
21	(5) States can continue to improve the attainment of		
22	occupational licensure and to eliminate barriers impeding employment of		
23	spouses of uniformed service members following a move across state lines;		
24	(6) Acts 2019, No. 820, established provisions for the granting		
25	of automatic occupational licensure or expedited occupational licensure to		
26	active-duty service members, recently separated veterans, and their spouses		
27	who hold occupational licensure in good standing in another jurisdiction; and		
28	(7) Additional steps need to be taken to clarify, simplify, and		
29	elevate the occupational licensure process for uniformed service members,		
30	uniformed service veterans, and their spouses.		
31	(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to address occupational		
32	licensure barriers that impede the launch and sustainability of civilian		
33	occupational careers and employment faced by uniformed service members,		
34	uniformed service veterans, and their spouses due to frequent uniformed		
35	service assignment by:		
36	(1) Providing:		

1	(A) Automatic occupational licensure or expedited		
2	occupational licensure to current license holders to expedite their entry		
3	into the workforce of this state;		
4	(B) Temporary or provisional licensure to initial		
5	licensure candidates while expediting full licensure;		
6	(C) Legislative oversight of rulemaking by occupational		
7	licensing entities to ensure removal of occupational licensure barriers faced		
8	by uniformed service members, uniformed service veterans, and their spouses;		
9	<u>and</u>		
10	(D) Guidance to assure effective rulemaking and clear		
11	license application instructions to uniformed service members, uniformed		
12	service veterans, and their spouses;		
13	(2) Recognizing uniformed service education, training,		
14	experience, and credentials of uniformed service members and uniformed		
15	service veterans applying for initial occupational licensure; and		
16	(3) Extending licensure expiration and any continuing education		
17	required for occupational licensure renewal when a uniformed service member		
18	<u>is deployed.</u>		
19			
20	17-4-103. Definitions.		
21	As used in this chapter:		
22	(1) "Automatic occupational licensure" means the granting of		
23	occupational licensure without an individual's having met occupational		
24	<u>licensure requirements provided under this title or by the rules of the</u>		
25	relevant occupational licensing entity;		
26	(2) "Occupational licensing entity" means an office, board,		
27	commission, department, council, bureau, or other agency of state government		
28	having authority to license, certify, register, permit, or otherwise		
29	authorize an individual to engage in a particular occupation or profession,		
30	not including occupations or professions within the judicial branch of		
31	government or occupations or professions subject to the superintending		
32	control of the Supreme Court;		
33	(3) "Occupational licensure" means a license, certificate,		
34	registration, permit, or other form of authorization required by law or rule		
35	that is required for an individual to engage in a particular occupation or		
36	profession:		

1	(4) "Uniformed service member" means:
2	(A) An active or reserve component member of the United
3	States Air Force, United States Army, United States Coast Guard, United
4	States Marine Corps, United States Navy, United States Space Force, or
5	National Guard;
6	(B) An active component member of the National Oceanic and
7	Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps; or
8	(C) An active or reserve component member of the United
9	States Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service; and
10	(5) "Uniformed service veteran" means a former member of the
11	United States uniformed services discharged under conditions other than
12	dishonorable.
13	
14	17-4-104. Applicability.
15	Unless otherwise stated in this chapter, this chapter applies to:
16	(1) A uniformed service member stationed in the State of
17	Arkansas;
18	(2) A uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes
19	residency in the State of Arkansas; and
20	(3) The spouse of:
21	(A) A person listed in subdivision (1) or (2) of this
22	section;
23	(B) A uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of
24	duty that excludes the uniformed service member's spouse from accompanying
25	the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and
26	(C) A uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs
27	to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse
28	establishes residency in the state.
29	
30	17-4-105. Automatic occupational licensure.
31	An occupational licensing entity shall grant automatic occupational
32	licensure to engage in an occupation or profession to an individual who is:
33	(1) Listed in § 17-4-104; and
34	(2) The holder in good standing of occupational licensure with
35	similar scope of practice issued by another state, territory, or district of
36	the United States.

T	
2	17-4-106. Expedited occupational licensure.
3	(a)(1) An occupational licensing entity may submit proposed rules
4	recommending an expedited process for the attainment of occupational
5	licensure instead of automatic occupational licensure as provided under § 17-
6	4-105 to the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council.
7	(2) The proposed rules described in subdivision (a)(1) of this
8	section shall include temporary or provisional occupational licensure
9	provisions with a term of ninety (90) days or more.
10	(3) The occupational licensing entity shall provide automatic
11	occupational licensure if the proposed expedited occupational licensure rules
12	are not approved as required by § 17-4-109.
13	(b)(1) An occupational licensing entity shall expedite the process for
14	initial occupational licensure for an individual who is listed in § 17-4-104.
15	(2) An occupational licensing entity shall provide the applicant
16	under subdivision (b)(1) of this section with a temporary or provisional
17	license upon receipt of required documentation or the successful completion
18	of any examination required by the relevant occupational licensing entity to
19	enable the applicant to secure employment in his or her occupation or
20	<pre>profession.</pre>
21	
22	17-4-107. Acceptance of uniformed service education, training,
23	experience, or service-issued credential.
24	An occupational licensing entity shall accept relevant and applicable
25	uniformed service education, training, or service-issued credential toward
26	occupational licensure qualifications or requirements when considering an
27	application for initial licensure of an individual who is:
28	(1) A uniformed service member; or
29	(2) A uniformed service veteran who makes an application within
30	one (1) year of his or her discharge from uniformed service.
31	
32	17-4-108. Extension of license expiration and continuing education
33	requirements.
34	(a) An occupational licensing entity shall extend the expiration date
35	of an occupational licensure for a deployed uniformed service member or his
36	or her spouse for one hundred eighty (180) days following the date of the

1	uniformed service member's return from deployment.		
2	(b)(1) An occupational licensing entity shall allow a full or partial		
3	exemption from a continuing education requirement that is required as a		
4	component of occupational licensure for an individual who is listed in		
5	subsection (a) of this section until one hundred eighty (180) days following		
6	the date of the uniformed service member's return from deployment.		
7	(2) An occupational licensing entity that allows full or partial		
8	exemption from continuing education requirements may require evidence of		
9	completion of continuing education before granting a subsequent occupational		
10	licensure or authorizing the renewal of an occupational licensure.		
11			
12	17-4-109. Legislative oversight of rules.		
13	(a) The Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council		
14	shall:		
15	(1) Review the proposed rules of an occupational licensing		
16	entity as submitted for public comment at least thirty (30) days before the		
17	<pre>public comment period ends under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, §</pre>		
18	25-15-201 et seq.; and		
19	(2) Approve the proposed rules submitted under § 17-4-106 based		
20	on:		
21	(A) A determination of whether the expedited process		
22	provides the least restrictive means of attaining occupational licensure; and		
23	(B) Any other criteria the Administrative Rules		
24	Subcommittee of the Legislative Council determines necessary to achieve the		
25	objectives of this section.		
26	(b) The Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council		
27	may:		
28	(1) Establish a further subcommittee to assist in the duties		
29	assigned to the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council		
30	under this section;		
31	(2) Assign information filed with the Administrative Rules		
32	Subcommittee of the Legislative Council under this section to one (1) or more		
33	subcommittees of the Legislative Council, including without limitation a		
34	subcommittee created under subdivision (b)(1) of this section; or		
35	(3) Delegate the duties of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee		
36	of the Legislative Council under this section to one (1) or more		

1	subcommittees of the Legislative Council, which hall be subject to the final		
2	review and approval of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the		
3	<u>Legislative Council.</u>		
4			
5	17-4-110. Responsibilities of occupational licensing entities.		
6	An occupational licensing entity shall:		
7	(1) Submit proposed rules authorized under § 17-4-106 to the		
8	Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council for review and		
9	approval before the proposed rules are promulgated under the Arkansas		
10	Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.;		
11	(2) If the proposed rules are not approved as required under §		
12	17-4-109, provide automatic occupational licensure to an individual listed in		
13	§ 17-4-104;		
14	(3) Post prominently on the occupational licensing entity's		
15	website a link entitled "Military Member Licensure" that directly leads to		
16	information applicable to an individual listed in § 17-4-104; and		
17	(4) Provide to the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth,		
18	Legislative and Military Affairs an annual report stating the number of		
19	individuals granted automatic occupational licensure and expedited		
20	occupational licensure under this chapter.		
21			
22	SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the		
23	General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that current laws and		
24	administrative rules regarding the issuance of occupational licenses,		
25	certificates, and permits are barriers and create a hardship for uniformed		
26	service members, uniformed service veterans, and their spouses; that		
27	additional expedited processes, automatic licensure, and extended expiration		
28	dates of occupational licenses, certificates, and permits is needed to ensure		
29	that uniformed service members, uniformed service veterans, and their spouses		
30	may practice their chosen occupation or profession in the State of Arkansas;		
31	and that this act is immediately necessary to remove barriers and hardships		
32	in obtaining occupational licenses, certificates, and permits for uniformed		
33	service members, uniformed service veterans, and their spouses. Therefore, an		
34	emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for		
35	the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become		
36	effective on:		

1	(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;
2	(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
3	the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
4	<pre>bill; or</pre>
5	(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
6	overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.
7	
8	
9	/s/Hill
10	
11	
12	APPROVED: 2/23/21
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Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law. Act 725 of the Regular Session

1	State of Arkansas	As Engrossed: \$3/10/21	
2	93rd General Assembly	A Bill	
3	Regular Session, 2021		SENATE BILL 153
4			
5	By: Senators Gilmore, B. Bal	llinger, Beckham, Bledsoe, B. Davis, Flippo, T. Gar	ner, K. Hammer, Hester,
6	B. Johnson, D. Sullivan, C. T	^P ucker, D. Wallace	
7	By: Representatives Ray, Bed	aty Jr., M. Berry, Boyd, Brooks, Brown, Furman, H	'aak, McCollum,
8	Underwood, Wardlaw		
9			
10		For An Act To Be Entitled	
11	AN ACT TO	CREATE THE WORKFORCE EXPANSION ACT OF	2021;
12	AND FOR O	THER PURPOSES.	
13			
14		~	
15		Subtitle	
16	TO C	CREATE THE WORKFORCE EXPANSION ACT OF	
17	2021	•	
18			
19			
20	BE IT ENACTED BY THE	GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKAN	ISAS:
21			
22		ansas Code Title 4, Chapter 25, Subcha	pter l, is amended
23		section to read as follows:	
24		waiver for certain individuals.	
25		nding any law to the contrary, the ini	
26	_	nsing fees associated with the formati	
27		e waived for applicants who meet the r	<u>equirements in the </u>
28	_	ct of 2021, § 17-4-101 et seq.	
29		e state entities shall:	
30		ish notice of the fee waiver on:	
31	(A)	The website maintained by the approp	<u>riate state</u>
32	entity; and		
33	(B)	Any relevant forms that an applicant	. is required to
34	complete; and		an ahta aretes
35	(2) Prom	ulgate any necessary rules to implemen	t this section.
36			

1	SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 1/, is amended to add an additional
2	chapter to read as follows:
3	Chapter 4 - Workforce Expansion Act of 2021
4	
5	17-4-101. Title.
6	This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Workforce
7	Expansion Act of 2021".
8	
9	17-4-102. Legislative findings — Purpose.
10	(a) The General Assembly finds that:
11	(1) Entrepreneurs and workers must pay various fees in order to
12	work in a government-regulated profession or occupation or to start a small
13	business in Arkansas;
14	(2) Families trying to break the cycle of government dependency
15	should not have to pay the state to earn a living; and
16	(3) Arkansas should waive initial fees associated with
17	occupational and professional regulations and the formation of a business for
18	low-income individuals.
19	(b) It is the purpose of this chapter to increase access to
20	professional and occupational licenses that would otherwise be cost
21	prohibitive for certain individuals.
22	
23	17-4-103. Definitions.
24	As used in this chapter:
25	(1) "License" means a license, certificate, registration,
26	permit, or other form of authorization required by law or rule that is
27	required for an individual to engage in a particular occupation or
28	profession; and
29	(2)(A) "Licensing entity" means an office, board, commission,
30	department, council, bureau, or other agency of state government having
31	authority to license, certify, register, permit, or otherwise authorize an
32	individual to engage in a particular occupation or profession.
33	(B) "Licensing entity" does not include a political
34	subdivision of the state or any other local or regional governmental entity,
35	including without limitation a city of the first class, a city of the second
36	class, an incorporated town, or a county.

As Engrossed: \$3/10/21 \$B153

1	17-4-104. Fee waiver.
2	(a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a licensing entity shall
3	not require an initial fee for individuals who are seeking to receive a
4	license in this state if the applicant:
5	(1) Is receiving assistance through the Arkansas Medicaid
6	Program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Special
7	Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, the
8	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program, or the Lifeline Assistance
9	Program;
10	(2) Was approved for unemployment within the last twelve (12)
11	months; or
12	(3) Has an income that does not exceed two hundred percent
13	(200%) of the federal poverty income guidelines.
14	(b) The waiver of the initial fee does not include fees for:
15	(1) A criminal background check;
16	(2) An examination or a test; or
17	(3) A medical or drug test.
18	(c) The Department of Human Services and the Division of Workforce
19	Services shall collaborate with a licensing entity concerning verification of
20	eligibility for public benefits for applicants, which may include obtaining a
21	signed consent form from the applicant.
22	
23	17-4-105. Licensing entity duties.
24	A licensing entity shall:
25	(1) Publish notice of the fee waiver on:
26	(A) The website maintained by the licensing entity; and
27	(B) Any relevant forms that an applicant is required to
28	complete; and
29	(2) Promulgate any necessary rules to implement this chapter.
30	
31	SECTION 3. <u>EFFECTIVE DATE.</u>
32	SECTIONS 1 and 2 of this act shall be effective on and after January 1,
33	<u>2022.</u>
34	
35	/s/Gilmore
36	APPROVED: 4/15/21