

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas

GIRLS' STATE

Girls State, 2024

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

By: Representatives B. Booth, M. Dearasaugh, K. Quintanilla, Abby Hall, K. Wilson, H. Brown, N. Wharton, R. Bandera, L. Lummus, G. Anderson, C. Vance

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE AN AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLIANCE OFFICER POSITION; TO CREATE AN AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLIANCE BOARD; TO CREATE A GRANT PROGRAM TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY ACROSS THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE AN AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLIANCE OFFICER POSITION; TO CREATE AN AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLIANCE BOARD; AND TO CREATE A GRANT PROGRAM TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY ACROSS THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ARKANSAS GIRLS' STATE:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 14, is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 11 – Accessibility

20-11-101. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Office.

(a)(1) There is created the Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Office to be supervised by the State Fire Marshal.

(2) A State-level ADA Compliance Officer shall be established in the Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Office.

(b) Each county shall:

(1) Appoint an ADA Compliance Officer; and

1 (2) Develop a plan to ensure each building or location within
2 the county is accessible under the Americans with Disabilities Act, as it
3 existed on January 1, 2024.

4 (c)(1) An ADA Compliance Officer shall investigate an accessibility
5 complaint made against a building or location within his or her county.

6 (2)(A) If the ADA Compliance Officer finds that the building or
7 location does not meet accessibility standards, he or she shall:

8 (i) Present his or her finding to the owner of the
9 building or location; and

10 (ii) Allow the owner of the building or location to
11 develop a plan to bring the building or location into compliance.

12 (B) If the owner of the building or location does not
13 bring the building or location into compliance within three (3) months, the
14 findings shall be filed with the Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance
15 Board for further action, including without limitation the imposition of
16 finest or penalties.

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18 20-11-102. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Board – Grant
19 program.

20 (a) There is created an Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance
21 Board.

22 (b)(1) The board shall be composed of twelve (12) members, with three
23 (3) members appointed from each of the four (4) Congressional districts.

24 (2) At least fifty percent (50%) of the members appointed to the
25 board shall be individuals with a disability or an immediate family member of
26 an individual with a disability.

27 (c) The board shall:

28 (1) Hear complaints filed by Americans with Disabilities
29 Compliance Officers;

30 (2) Determine a plan for a building or entity to become
31 accessible; and

32 (3) Impose a fine or penalty for noncompliance.

33 (d)(1) Any fine or penalty paid under this section shall be deposited
34 into the Grant Program Fund to be used to fund matching grants.

35 (2) From the effective date of this act until 2028, two hundred
36 fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) shall be deposited into the fund each year.

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2 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This act is effective January 2025.
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