

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 87th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2009  
4

As Engrossed: H2/5/09  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1354

5 By: Representative Shelby  
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**For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO MODERNIZE THE ROLE OF THE COUNTY HEALTH  
10 OFFICERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

**Subtitle**

13 AN ACT TO MODERNIZE THE ROLE OF THE  
14 COUNTY HEALTH OFFICERS.

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

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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 14-262-104 is amended to read as follows:  
20 14-262-104. County health officer.

21 (a) The office of county health officer is created in each county  
22 within the state.

23 (b) The State Board of Health, ~~with the approval~~ upon recommendation  
24 of the county judge, shall appoint for each county in this state a health  
25 officer who shall serve for a term of ~~two (2)~~ four (4) years and may be  
26 reappointed for additional terms.

27 (c)(1) The county health officer shall be a graduate of a ~~reputable~~  
28 ~~medical college~~ an accredited and reputable medical or osteopathic  
29 university, shall be licensed to practice medicine in Arkansas, and shall  
30 have had at least three (3) years' experience in the practice of medicine in  
31 this state~~+~~.

32 (2) ~~however, the time~~ Time spent in the practice of medicine  
33 while in the services of the Armed Forces of the United States shall be  
34 accepted as equivalent to time spent in the practice of medicine in Arkansas.

35 (d)(1)(A) ~~Each county health officer shall perform such duties as have~~  
36 ~~been required of county physicians with respect to caring for the prisoners~~



1 ~~in county jails, caring for the inmates of county poor farms and hospitals,~~  
2 ~~discharging the duties of county quarantine, and such other duties as have~~  
3 ~~been lawfully required of the county physician. He shall perform such duties~~  
4 ~~as may be prescribed for him under the rules, regulations, and requirements~~  
5 ~~of the State Board of Health.~~ The county health officer shall serve as a key  
6 public health representative in the local community.

7 (B) The duties of the county health officer shall include  
8 without limitation:

9 (i) Promoting the use of local health unit services;

10 (ii) Advocating for public health policy initiatives  
11 with local and state policy makers;

12 (iii) Providing assistance to local public health  
13 education and promotion of initiatives; and

14 (iv) Establishing a regular communication process  
15 with the local health unit administrator.

16 (2) ~~He~~ The county health officer shall also be required to also  
17 shall aid and assist the State Board of Health ~~in all matters of local~~  
18 ~~quarantine, inspection, prevention and suppression of disease, vital and~~  
19 ~~mortuary statistics, and general sanitation within his county, and shall make~~  
20 ~~such reports to the State Board of Health as shall be demanded of him and~~  
21 collaborate with the State Health Officer and the Department of Health in  
22 county emergency preparedness response and planning including without  
23 limitation:

24 (A) Implementing orders of State Health Officer if  
25 isolation, quarantine, or emergency legal measures are required;

26 (B) Participating in the development, review, or both  
27 development and review of local emergency plans; and

28 (C) Serving as a local spokesperson to media, general  
29 public, and medical community in the event of a public health emergency.

30 (3) The county health officer also shall support the board, the  
31 State Health Officer, and the department with any infectious or communicable  
32 disease outbreaks by without limitation:

33 (A) Assisting in containment and management of an  
34 infectious disease outbreak under the direction of state public health  
35 officials;

36 (B) Providing prescriptive support for medication as

1 appropriate; and

2 (C) Serving as local spokesperson to media, the community  
3 at large, and the medical community in the event of infectious disease  
4 outbreak based on information provided by department.

5 (e) The county health officer shall make reports to the board and the  
6 department as requested.

7 (f) The county health officer also shall perform other duties as  
8 prescribed under rules of the board.

9 ~~(e)~~(g) The county health officer ~~shall~~ may receive ~~for his services~~ an  
10 annual salary to be fixed by the county court, which may be payable monthly  
11 out of the county treasury.

12 ~~(f)~~(h) Upon the failure of the county health officer to perform the  
13 duties of his or her office, as required by this section, he may be removed  
14 by the ~~State Board of Health~~ board.

15 (i) When performing official duties, a county health officer is  
16 immune from civil suit and liability in the same manner officers and  
17 employees of the State of Arkansas are immune under § 19-10-305 and Arkansas  
18 Constitution of 1874, Article 5, Section 20.

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20 /s/ Shelby  
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