

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1487

4
5 By: Representative L. Smith
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For An Act To Be Entitled

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9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' POLITICAL
10 FREEDOM ACT OF 1999; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

12
13 TO AMEND THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' POLITICAL
14 FREEDOM ACT OF 1999.
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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 21-1-502 is amended to read as follows:
20 21-1-502. Definitions.

21 As used in this subchapter:

22 ~~(1) "Elected public official" means the Governor, Lieutenant~~
23 ~~Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer of State, Auditor of State, Attorney~~
24 ~~General, Commissioner of State Lands, a member of the Senate, and a member of~~
25 ~~the House of Representatives;~~

26 (2)(1) "Public employee" means any person providing services for
27 the State of Arkansas, a county, a municipal corporation, or any other
28 political subdivision of this state for which compensation is paid; ~~and~~

29 ~~(3)(2)~~ (2) "Public employer" means the State of Arkansas and each
30 political subdivision of the State of Arkansas, as defined in § 21-5-603; and

31 (3) "Public official" means the Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
32 Secretary of State, Treasurer of State, Auditor of State, Attorney General,
33 Commissioner of State Lands, a member of the Senate, a member of the House of
34 Representatives, and any elected or appointed county or municipal official.
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36 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code 21-1-503 is amended to read as follows:



21-1-503. Employer not to penalize employee's political activity.

(a) A public employee shall not be prohibited from communicating with ~~an elected~~ a public official concerning a matter related to the public employee's job, except for a matter exempted under § 25-19-105.

(b)(1) It shall be unlawful for any public employer to discipline, to threaten to discipline, to reprimand either orally or in writing, to place any notation in a public employee's personnel file disciplining or reprimanding the public employee, or to otherwise discriminate against a public employee because the public employee exercised the right to communicate with ~~an elected~~ a public official as granted under this subchapter.

(2) A public employer shall not be prohibited from disciplining a public employee who has intentionally made an untrue allegation to ~~an elected~~ a public official concerning a matter related to the public employee's job.

(c) Any person willfully violating a provision of this subchapter shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

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