

1 State of Arkansas  
2 90th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2015  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1386

5 By: Representatives Boyd, Bentley, G. Hodges, Scott, Baine, C. Fite, C. Douglas  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE REPORTING ACT;  
9 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
10

## Subtitle

11 TO CREATE THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE REPORTING  
12 ACT.  
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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 Title 17, Chapter 80, Subchapter 1, is  
20 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

21 17-80-117. Substance Abuse Reporting Act.

22 (a) As used in this section:

23 (1) "Disciplinary action" means an action taken by a required  
24 reporter to terminate:

25 (A) The employment of a healthcare professional;

26 (B) A contractual arrangement with a healthcare  
27 professional; or

28 (C) The clinical privileges of a healthcare professional;

29 (2) "Healthcare professional" means an individual who is  
30 licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by a licensing authority of this  
31 state to administer healthcare services in the ordinary course of his or her  
32 business or practice;

33 (3) "Licensing authority" means a government agency or board  
34 charged with licensing, certifying, or authorizing a healthcare professional  
35 to administer health care in this state; and

36 (4) "Required reporter" means:



1                   (A) A facility licensed by the Division of Health  
2 Facilities Services of the Department of Health;

3                   (B) A facility licensed by the Office of Long Term Care of  
4 the Division of Medical Services of the Department of Human Services; and

5                   (C) Any other entity that employs or contracts with  
6 healthcare professionals to provide healthcare services to individuals in the  
7 State of Arkansas.

8           (b) The chief executive officer or an official agent of a required  
9 reporter, or his or her designee, shall report to the appropriate licensing  
10 authority the following:

11                   (1) A final disciplinary action taken against a healthcare  
12 professional as a result of the misuse or abuse of illicit drugs or  
13 prescription medications by a healthcare professional; and

14                   (2) The voluntary resignation of any healthcare professional  
15 against whom a disciplinary action arising from the misuse or abuse of  
16 illicit drugs or prescription medications by a healthcare professional if a  
17 disciplinary action is pending.

18           (c) A report required by subsection (b) of this section shall be  
19 submitted within seven (7) days of the final disciplinary action or voluntary  
20 resignation and shall include without limitation:

21                   (1) The name, address, and telephone number of the person who is  
22 the subject of the report; and

23                   (2) A description of the facts giving rise to the issuance of  
24 the report.

25           (d) If a licensing authority receiving a report of disciplinary action  
26 under subsection (b) determines, after investigation and due process, that a  
27 criminal act may have been committed by the healthcare professional, the  
28 licensing authority is authorized to report the information to the  
29 appropriate law enforcement agency.

30           (e) The chief executive officer or an official agent of a required  
31 reporter, or his or her designee, shall report to the appropriate law  
32 enforcement agency any final disciplinary action taken against an employee  
33 who is not a healthcare professional as a result of the misuse or abuse of  
34 illicit drugs or prescription medications by the employee.

35           (f) The following information shall be exempt from the reporting  
36 requirements of this section:

1           (1) Information learned or maintained in connection with an  
2 alcohol or drug prevention function that is conducted, regulated, or directly  
3 or indirectly assisted by any department or agency of the United States to  
4 the extent that the reporting is in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 290dd-2 or  
5 federal regulations adopted relating to 42 U.S.C. § 290dd-2, as it existed on  
6 January 1, 2015; and

7           (2) Information learned or maintained by a required reporter in  
8 the course of providing healthcare services to the healthcare professional.

9           (g) The duty to report under this section does not require disclosure  
10 of communications, proceedings, minutes, records, or reports that are  
11 privileged under § 16-46-105, § 16-46-109, § 20-9-503, or any other law of  
12 state.

13           (h) The duty to report that is required under this section is in  
14 addition to, and is not a substitute for, other reporting requirements  
15 imposed by applicable federal and state law including without limitation:

16           (1) Reporting the theft or loss of controlled substances under  
17 the federal Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. § 801 et seq.; and

18           (2) Reporting physician misconduct under § 17-95-104.

19           (i) A required reporter or its agents or employees shall not be liable  
20 to any person and are immune from civil liability for filing a report  
21 required by this section and the contents of the report.

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