

1 State of Arkansas  
2 92nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2019

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 142

4  
5 By: Senator Teague

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ALLOW A FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION TO CONVERT  
9 TO A NONPROFIT CORPORATION; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY;  
10 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

14 TO ALLOW A FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION TO  
15 CONVERT TO A NONPROFIT CORPORATION; AND  
16 TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 4-27-202, concerning articles of  
22 incorporation, is amended to add a new subsection to read as follows:

23 (d) A for-profit corporation may convert to a nonprofit corporation  
24 under the Arkansas Nonprofit Corporation Act, §§ 4-28-201 – 4-28-206 and 4-  
25 28-209 – 4-28-224, or the Arkansas Nonprofit Corporation Act of 1993, § 4-33-  
26 101 et seq., upon the filing of an amendment to the corporation's articles of  
27 incorporation under either § 4-28-206 or § 4-33-202, after the filing and  
28 conversion has taken place, the converted corporation shall comply with  
29 either the Arkansas Nonprofit Corporation Act, §§ 4-28-201 – 4-28-206 and 4-  
30 28-209 – 4-28-224, or the Arkansas Nonprofit Corporation Act of 1993, § 4-33-  
31 101 et seq.

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33 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 4-28-206 is amended to read as follows:  
34 4-28-206. Articles of incorporation generally.

35 (a) Any association of persons or for-profit corporation organized  
36 under the Arkansas Business Corporation Act of 1987, § 4-27-101 et seq.



1 desirous of becoming incorporated under the provisions of the Arkansas  
 2 Nonprofit Corporation Act, §§ 4-28-201 – 4-28-206 and 4-28-209 – 4-28-224,  
 3 shall file with the circuit court of the county in which the main office or  
 4 principal place of business of the proposed corporation is located or  
 5 proposed to be located signed and verified articles of incorporation, which  
 6 shall set forth the following:

7 (1) The name of the corporation;

8 (2) The period of duration, which may be perpetual;

9 (3) The purposes for which the corporation is organized;

10 (4) Any provisions, not inconsistent with law, which the  
 11 incorporators elect to set forth in the articles of incorporation for the  
 12 regulation of the internal affairs of the corporation, including any  
 13 provision for distribution of assets on dissolution or final liquidation;

14 (5) The address of its main office or principal place of  
 15 business, and the name of its registered agent at that address;

16 (6) The number of directors constituting the initial board of  
 17 directors and the names and addresses of the persons who are to serve as the  
 18 initial directors; ~~and~~

19 (7) The name and address of each incorporator;

20 (8) A statement that the corporation:

21 (A) Is a nonprofit corporation; and

22 (B) Has converted under the Arkansas Nonprofit Corporation  
 23 Act, §§ 4-28-201 – 4-28-206 and 4-28-209 – 4-28-224; and

24 (9)(A) A description of the treatment of shares of stock.

25 (B) The description of the treatment of shares of stock:

26 (i) may provide for the exchange of shares of stock  
 27 for certificates of membership if the corporation has members; or

28 (ii) shall provide that the shares of stock be  
 29 canceled by the board of directors if the corporation does not have members.

30 (b) If the circuit court finds that the articles of incorporation  
 31 conform to law and that the incorporation is for a lawful purpose and is in  
 32 the best interests of the public, the court may issue an order approving the  
 33 incorporation of the proposed association of persons.

34 (c) If the court approves the incorporation, the articles of  
 35 incorporation in duplicate, signed and verified, and a copy of the order of  
 36 the court approving the incorporation shall be transmitted to the Secretary

1 of State, who shall, when all fees have been paid as prescribed in the  
2 Arkansas Nonprofit Corporation Act, §§ 4-28-201 – 4-28-206 and 4-28-209 – 4-  
3 28-224:

4 (1) ~~File~~ file the original of the articles in his or her office;  
5 and

6 (2) ~~Issue~~ issue a certificate of incorporation to which he or  
7 she shall affix the other copy of the articles endorsed with the word “Filed”  
8 and the month, day, and year of the filing and return the certificate of  
9 incorporation to the incorporators or their representative.

10 (d) A corporation may amend its articles of incorporation from time to  
11 time, provided that the amendments are lawful under the Arkansas Nonprofit  
12 Corporation Act, §§ 4-28-201 – 4-28-206 and 4-28-209 – 4-28-224. A copy of  
13 all amendments shall be filed with the Secretary of State within thirty (30)  
14 days after their passage.

15 (e)(1) A for-profit corporation may convert to a nonprofit corporation  
16 under the Arkansas Nonprofit Corporation Act, §§ 4-28-201 – 4-28-206 and 4-  
17 28-209 – 4-28-224, or the Arkansas Nonprofit Corporation Act of 1993, § 4-33-  
18 101 et seq., upon the filing of an amendment to the corporation’s articles of  
19 incorporation with the information required under this section.

20 (2) If an entity is a for-profit corporation that is converting  
21 to a nonprofit corporation, the conversion shall be approved by a three-  
22 fourths (3/4) vote of the shareholders of the business corporation.

23 (f) A conversion to a nonprofit corporation under this chapter is  
24 effective when an amendment to the articles of incorporation is filed with  
25 the Secretary of State and the Secretary of State has collected the filing  
26 fees, service fees, and copying fees required under § 4-33-122.

27 (g) A conversion to a nonprofit corporation under this chapter is not  
28 a dissolution.

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30 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 4-33-202(a), concerning articles of  
31 incorporation, is amended to read as follows:

32 (a) The articles of incorporation must set forth:

33 (1) a corporate name for the corporation that satisfies the  
34 requirements of § 4-33-401;

35 (2) one (1) of the following statements:

36 (i) this corporation is a public benefit corporation;

1 (ii) this corporation is a mutual benefit corporation; or  
 2 (iii) this corporation is a religious corporation.  
 3 (3) the information required by § 4-20-105(a);  
 4 (4) the name and address of each incorporator;  
 5 (5) whether or not the corporation will have members; ~~and~~  
 6 (6) provisions not inconsistent with law regarding the  
 7 distribution of assets on dissolution;

8 (7) If converting to a nonprofit corporation from another form  
 9 of entity, then the articles of incorporation shall include:

10 (A) A statement that the corporation:

11 (i) is a nonprofit corporation; and

12 (ii) has converted under the Arkansas Nonprofit  
 13 Corporation Act of 1993, § 4-33-101 et seq;

14 (B)(i) A description of the treatment of shares of stock.

15 (ii) The description of the treatment of shares of  
 16 stock:

17 (a) may provide for the repurchase or exchange  
 18 of shares of stock for certificates of membership if the corporation has  
 19 members, and if the shares are repurchased, then the nonprofit corporation  
 20 shall cancel the shares; or

21 (b) shall provide that the shares of stock be  
 22 canceled by the board of directors if the corporation does not have members;  
 23 and

24 (C) A statement that the Internal Revenue Service has been  
 25 notified or will be notified within a reasonable time of the conversion and  
 26 federal regulations were followed regarding the conversion.

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 28 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 4-33-202(c), concerning articles of  
 29 incorporation, is amended to read as follows:

30 (c)(1) Each incorporator named in the articles must sign the articles.

31 (2) If an entity is a for-profit corporation that is converting  
 32 to a nonprofit corporation, the conversion shall be approved by a three-  
 33 fourths (3/4) vote of the shareholders of the business corporation.

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 35 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 4-33-202, concerning articles of  
 36 incorporation, is amended to add additional subsections to read as follows:

1       (e) A for-profit corporation may convert to a nonprofit corporation  
2 under the Arkansas Nonprofit Corporation Act, §§ 4-28-201 – 4-28-206 and 4-  
3 28-209 – 4-28-224, or the Arkansas Nonprofit Corporation Act of 1993, § 4-33-  
4 101 et seq., upon the filing of an amendment to the corporation’s articles of  
5 incorporation with the information required under this section.

6       (f) A conversion to a nonprofit corporation under this chapter is  
7 effective when an amendment to the articles of incorporation is filed with  
8 the Secretary of State and the Secretary of State has collected the filing  
9 fees, service fees, and copying fees required under § 4-33-122.

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11       SECTION 6. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
12 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that a for-profit corporation could  
13 face severe adverse tax consequences for reorganizing as a nonprofit  
14 corporation that may result in being subjected to unwarranted penalties; that  
15 existing statutes relating to the process of converting to a nonprofit entity  
16 need amending to eliminate uncertainty and to prevent irreparable harm on  
17 businesses operating in this state; and that this act is immediately  
18 necessary to clarify state law governing conversion by a for-profit  
19 corporation to a nonprofit corporation and provide for timely administration  
20 of business procedures. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and  
21 this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public  
22 peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

23           (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

24           (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
25 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the  
26 bill; or

27           (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
28 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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