

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1207

5 By: Representative Underwood
6 By: Senator Gilmore
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE FAST-TRACK PERMITS ACT; AND FOR
10 OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12 TO CREATE THE FAST-TRACK PERMITS 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 14, Chapter 1, is amended to add an
20 additional subchapter to read as follows:
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Subchapter 5 – Fast-Track Permits Act

14-1-501. Title.

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24 This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Fast-Track
25 Permits Act".
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14-1-502. Purpose.

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28 The purpose of this subchapter is to:
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- 30 (1) Enhance economic growth in local communities; and
31 (2) Reduce the regulatory burden on entrepreneurs, developers,
32 and homeowners by streamlining the issuance of local permits.
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14-1-503. Definitions.

34 As used in this subchapter:
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- 36 (1) "Applicant" means a person that submits a request for permit



1 or a person designated to act on the applicant's behalf in submitting a
 2 request for permit;

3 (2) "Local government" means a municipality, county, or other
 4 political subdivision of this state; and

5 (3) "Request for permit" means a request for a local
 6 government's approval of an action related to the development of a
 7 residential, multifamily, commercial, or industrial improvement within the
 8 jurisdiction of a local government.

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 10 14-1-504. Request for permit – Time period for approval or denial –
 11 Notice of denial required.

12 (a)(1) A local government shall approve or deny an applicant's request
 13 for permit within sixty (60) days from the date the local government receives
 14 the request for permit.

15 (2) If the local government does not approve or deny an
 16 applicant's request for permit within sixty (60) days as required under
 17 subdivision (a)(1) of this section, the request for permit is automatically
 18 approved.

19 (b) A local government shall not impose additional requirements
 20 related to the request for permit if the request for permit is automatically
 21 approved under subdivision (a)(2) of this section.

22 (c) If a local government denies a request for permit, the local
 23 government shall provide the applicant written notice of the denial stating
 24 the reasons the request for permit was denied.

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 26 14-1-505. Incomplete request for permit – Local government may deny –
 27 Notice required.

28 (a) A local government may deny an incomplete request for permit for
 29 the reasons stated in subsection (b) of this section.

30 (b) A request for permit is incomplete if the request for permit does
 31 not contain the information required by:

32 (1) Law;

33 (2) Rule required by law;

34 (3) Ordinance of the local government; or

35 (4) Policy of the local government.

36 (c) If the local government denies a request for permit for being

1 incomplete, the local government shall provide the applicant written notice
2 of the denial stating the reasons the request for permit was incomplete.

3 (d) The sixty (60) days for approval or denial of a request for permit
4 under § 14-1-504 automatically restarts, if within fifteen (15) days of the
5 date when the request for permit was received, the local government sends
6 written notice to the applicant of the denial of the incomplete request for
7 permit.

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9 14-1-506. Enforcement.

10 A person alleging a violation of this subchapter may bring a civil
11 action for appropriate relief, including without limitation reasonable:

12 (1) Attorney's fees and costs; and

13 (2) Witness fees and costs.

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