

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas As Engrossed: S2/22/23 S2/28/23 S3/2/23

2 94th General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2023

SENATE BILL 270

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5 By: Senators J. Payton, Gilmore, Irvin, B. Johnson, M. Johnson, Stone, D. Wallace

6 By: Representative Crawford

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For An Act To Be Entitled

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AN ACT TO AMEND THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF SEXUAL

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INDECENCY WITH A CHILD; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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Subtitle

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TO AMEND THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF SEXUAL

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INDECENCY WITH A CHILD.

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

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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 5-1-109(a)(1)(E), concerning offenses for
21 which prosecution may commence at any time, is amended to read as follows:

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(E) Sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110, if the

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offense is a felony;

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25 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 5-4-703(a)(8), concerning an additional
26 fine for certain offenses committed against a child or in the presence of a
27 child, is amended to read as follows:

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(8) Sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110, if the offense is

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a felony or Class A misdemeanor, indecent exposure, § 5-14-112, sexual

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assault in the third degree, § 5-14-126, or sexual assault in the fourth

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degree, § 5-14-127;

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33 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 5-13-210(f)(2), concerning the offense of
34 introduction of a controlled substance into the body of another person, is
35 amended to read as follows:

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(2) Engaging in any unlawful sexual act, as defined in § 5-14-



1 101 et seq., except for a misdemeanor violation of sexual indecency with a
2 child, § 5-14-110;

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4 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 5-14-110(a), concerning the conduct that
5 constitutes the offense of sexual indecency with a child, is amended to add
6 *an additional subdivision to read as follows:*

7 (6)(A) Being eighteen (18) years of age or older, the person
8 knowingly enters into and remains in a public changing facility that is
9 assigned to persons of the opposite sex while knowing a minor of the opposite
10 sex is present in the public changing facility.

11 (B) Subdivision (6)(A) of this section does not apply to a
12 person entering into or remaining in a public changing facility:

13 (i) With a minor under seven (7) years of age if the
14 person is the minor's parent, guardian, or family member, or is otherwise
15 authorized to care for the minor;

16 (ii) For maintenance or inspection purposes if the
17 person is authorized to conduct maintenance or inspection of the public
18 changing facility;

19 (iii) To render medical assistance;

20 (iv) To accompany a person needing assistance when
21 the actor is the parent, guardian, or family member, or is otherwise
22 authorized to care for the person needing assistance;

23 (v) To provide assistance in using the public
24 changing facility;

25 (vi) If the public changing facility has been
26 temporarily designated for use by persons of the same sex as the person
27 entering into or remaining in the public changing facility; or

28 (vii) Who is a certified law enforcement or
29 corrections officer accompanying a person of the opposite sex in his or her
30 custody.

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32 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 5-14-110(b), concerning the offense of
33 sexual indecency with a child, is amended to read as follows:

34 (b) Sexual indecency with a child is a:

35 (1) Class D felony under subdivisions (a)(1)-(5) of this
36 section; and

1 (2) Class C misdemeanor under subdivision (a)(6) of this
2 section.

3 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 5-14-110, concerning the offense of sexual
4 indecency with a child, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as
5 follows:

6 (c) As used in this section:

7 (1) “Sex” means a person’s immutable biological sex as
8 objectively determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth;
9 and

10 (2)(A) “Public changing facility” means a public or private
11 facility that is held out as open to the public and designed to be used at a
12 time during which a person may be in a state of undress in the presence of
13 other persons.

14 (B) “Public changing facility” includes without limitation
15 a restroom, bathroom, locker room, or shower room.

16 (C) “Public changing facility” does not include a private
17 dressng area open to the public that is designed for changing into and out
18 of clothing that is for sale in a commercial establishment that engages in
19 the sale of clothing.

20
21 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 5-14-201(2), concerning the definitions to
22 be used in relation to medical records of a person charged with a sex crime,
23 is amended to read as follows:

24 (2) “Sex crime” means any offense described in § 5-14-101 et
25 seq., except for a misdemeanor violation of sexual indecency with a child, §
26 5-14-110, or § 5-70-101 et seq.

27
28 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 6-17-116(b)(2), concerning the definitions
29 to be used under The Arkansas School Children Protection Act, is amended to
30 read as follows:

31 (2) A “sexual offense” is one described in § 5-14-101 et seq.,
32 except for a misdemeanor violation of sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-
33 110.

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35 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 6-17-410(c)(14), concerning a disqualifying
36 offense for licensure to be a teacher, is amended to read as follows:

1 (14) Sexual indecency with a child as prohibited in § 5-14-110,
2 if a the offense is a felony;

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4 SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 6-17-414(b)(15), concerning a
5 disqualifying offense for employment of nonlicensed personnel of an
6 educational entity, is amended to read as follows:

7 (15) Sexual indecency with a child as prohibited in § 5-14-110,
8 if the offense is a felony;

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10 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 9-28-409(e)(3)(ZZ), concerning offenses
11 that disqualify a person from having direct and unsupervised contact with a
12 child in the care of a child welfare agency, is amended to read as follows:

13 (ZZ) Sexual offenses, § 5-14-101 et seq., except for a
14 misdemeanor violation of sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110;

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16 SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 12-12-104(f)(2)(B), concerning the
17 definition of "sex offense" as used in the retention and disposition of
18 physical evidence in sex offense prosecutions, is amended to read as follows:

19 (B) Sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110, if the
20 offense is a felony;

21
22 SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 12-12-401(8), concerning the definitions
23 to be used in medical-legal examinations that are conducted during the
24 investigation and reporting of a sexual assault, is amended to read as
25 follows:

26 (8) "Victim" means any person who has been a victim of any
27 alleged sexual assault or incest as defined by § 5-14-101 et seq., except for
28 a misdemeanor violation of sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110, and §
29 5-26-202.

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31 SECTION 14. Arkansas Code § 12-12-903(13)(A)(i)(b), concerning the
32 definition of "sex offense" under the Sex Offender Registration Act of 1997,
33 is amended to read as follows:

34 (b) Sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110,
35 if the offense is a felony;

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1 SECTION 15. Arkansas Code § 12-12-1103(9), concerning the definitions
2 to be used under the State Convicted Offender DNA Data Base Act, is amended
3 to read as follows:

4 (9)(A) “Qualifying offense” means any felony offense as defined
5 in the Arkansas Criminal Code or a sexual offense classified as a misdemeanor
6 as defined by the Arkansas Criminal Code or a repeat offense as defined in
7 this section, ~~and.~~

8 (B) “Qualifying offense” does not include a misdemeanor
9 violation of sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110; and

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11 SECTION 16. Arkansas Code § 16-42-101(b), concerning the admissibility
12 of evidence of a victim’s prior sexual conduct, is amended to read as
13 follows:

14 (b) In a criminal prosecution under § 5-14-101 et seq., except for a
15 misdemeanor violation of sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110, the Human
16 Trafficking Act of 2013, § 5-18-101 et seq., or § 5-26-202, or for criminal
17 attempt to commit, criminal solicitation to commit, or criminal conspiracy to
18 commit an offense defined in any of those sections, opinion evidence,
19 reputation evidence, or evidence of specific instances of the victim’s prior
20 sexual conduct with the defendant or any other person, evidence of a victim’s
21 prior allegations of sexual conduct with the defendant or any other person,
22 evidence of a person’s prior sexual conduct when the person was a victim of
23 human trafficking, which allegations the victim asserts to be true, or
24 evidence offered by the defendant concerning prior allegations of sexual
25 conduct by the victim with the defendant or any other person if the victim
26 denies making the allegations is not admissible by the defendant, either
27 through direct examination of any defense witness or through cross-
28 examination of the victim or other prosecution witness, to attack the
29 credibility of the victim, to prove consent or any other defense, or for any
30 other purpose.

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32 SECTION 17. Arkansas Code § 16-82-101(b)(1)(A), concerning the testing
33 for human immunodeficiency virus for a conviction of a sexual offense, is
34 amended to read as follows:

35 (b)(1)(A) A person arrested and charged with violating § 5-14-103, §
36 5-14-110, if the offense is a felony, §§ 5-14-124 – 5-14-127, § 5-26-202, or

1 § 5-70-102 may be required by the court having jurisdiction of the criminal
2 prosecution, upon a finding of reasonable cause to believe that the person
3 committed the offense and subject to constitutional limitations, to be tested
4 for the presence of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or an antibody to
5 human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) unless the court determines that testing
6 the defendant would be inappropriate and documents the reasons for that
7 determination in the court record.

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9 SECTION 18. Arkansas Code § 16-90-1101(6)(B), concerning the
10 definition of "sex offense" used in relation to the rights of crime victims,
11 is amended to read as follows:

12 (B) Sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110, if the
13 offense is a felony;

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15 SECTION 19. Arkansas Code § 16-93-305(a), concerning probation for a
16 first time offender, is amended to read as follows:

17 (a) If a person enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to or is
18 found guilty of a sexual offense under § 5-14-101 et seq., except for a
19 misdemeanor violation of sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110, or
20 incest, § 5-26-202, perpetrated against a minor and is otherwise eligible for
21 probation, the person is prohibited as a condition of his or her probation
22 from residing in a residence with any minor unless the court makes a specific
23 finding that the person poses no danger to a minor residing in the residence.

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25 SECTION 20. Arkansas Code § 16-93-314(b)(2)(A), concerning the
26 exceptions to the law authorizing the discharge of probation, is amended to
27 read as follows:

28 (A) The person applying for discharge has been convicted
29 of a sexual offense as defined by § 5-14-101 et seq., unless the offense was
30 a misdemeanor violation of sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110; and

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32 SECTION 21. Arkansas Code § 17-3-102(a)(16), concerning offenses that
33 disqualify a person from receiving or holding a license issued by a licensing
34 entity, is amended to read as follows:

35 (16) Sexual indecency with a child as prohibited in § 5-14-110,
36 if the offense is a felony;

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SECTION 22. Arkansas Code § 17-14-203(12)(C)(i)(i), concerning factors that call into question an applicant's fitness for registration, licensure, or certification by the Arkansas Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board and the conviction of certain offenses within the previous five (5) years, is amended to read as follows:

(i) A sexually related crime or act under § 5-14-101 et seq., except for a misdemeanor violation of sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110;

SECTION 23. Arkansas Code § 18-16-112(a)(4)(A)(ii), concerning the definition of "sex crime" used in relation to landlord and tenant law and protections for victims of domestic abuse, is amended to read as follows:

(ii) *Sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110, if the offense is a felony;*

SECTION 24. Arkansas Code § 20-13-1106(a)(1)(O), concerning a disqualifying offense for certification or recertification by the Division of Emergency Medical Services, is amended to read as follows:

(O) Sexual indecency with a child as prohibited in § 5-14-110, if the offense is a felony;

SECTION 25. Arkansas Code § 20-16-2402(9), concerning the definitions contained in the Every Mom Matters Act related to reproductive health, is amended to read as follows:

(9) "Sexual assault" means an act or offense described in § 5-14-101 et seq., except for a misdemeanor violation of sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110.

SECTION 26. Arkansas Code § 20-38-105(b)(16), concerning disqualification from employment in certain health related professions, is amended to read as follows:

(16) Any sexual offense, § 5-14-101 et seq., except for a misdemeanor violation of sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110;

SECTION 27. Arkansas Code § 21-15-102(f)(15), concerning a

1 disqualifying offense for employment with a state agency in a position
2 involving direct contact with children and individuals with a disability, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (15) Sexual indecency with a child, as prohibited in § 5-14-110,
5 if the offense is a felony;

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7 SECTION 28. Arkansas Code § 21-15-103(g)(15), concerning offenses
8 requiring discharge from employment with a state agency for certain
9 positions, is amended to read as follows:

10 (15) Sexual indecency with a child, as prohibited in § 5-14-110,
11 if the offense is a felony;

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13 SECTION 29. Arkansas Code § 21-15-104(c)(8), concerning offenses for
14 which a waiver of exclusion or discharge requirement for persons in
15 designated positions is prohibited, is amended to read as follows:

16 (8) Sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110, if the offense is
17 a felony;

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19 SECTION 30. Arkansas Code § 25-1-112, is amended to read as follows:
20 25-1-112. Sexual offenses screened in criminal background checks.

21 Whenever a criminal background check is performed on a person under the
22 provisions of any criminal background check requirement contained in this
23 Code for employment, licensure, or any other purpose, the person may be
24 disqualified for employment, licensure, or any other purpose for which the
25 background check was conducted if it is determined that the person committed
26 a violation of any sexual offense formerly proscribed under §§ 5-14-101 – 5-
27 14-103, 5-14-104 – 5-14-109 [repealed], 5-14-110, if the offense is a felony,
28 5-14-111 – 5-14-112, 5-14-113 – 5-14-119 [reserved], 5-14-120 – 5-14-121
29 [repealed], and 5-14-122 – 5-14-127, that is substantially equivalent to any
30 sexual offense presently listed in §§ 5-14-101 – 5-14-103, 5-14-104 – 5-14-
31 109 [repealed], 5-14-110, if the offense is a felony, 5-14-111 – 5-14-112, 5-
32 14-113 – 5-14-119 [reserved], 5-14-120 – 5-14-121 [repealed], and 5-14-122 –
33 5-14-127, and is an offense screened for in a criminal background check.

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/s/J. Payton