

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1711

5 By: Representative Unger
6 By: Senator F. Love
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING MUNICIPAL PORT
10 AUTHORITIES; TO AMEND THE POWERS OF A MUNICIPAL PORT
11 AUTHORITY; TO ALLOW A MUNICIPAL PORT AUTHORITY TO
12 ESTABLISH A POLICE FORCE; TO ESTABLISH THE POWERS AND
13 DUTIES OF A MUNICIPAL PORT AUTHORITY LAW ENFORCEMENT
14 OFFICER; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

17 TO ALLOW A MUNICIPAL PORT AUTHORITY TO
18 ESTABLISH A POLICE FORCE; AND TO
19 ESTABLISH THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF A
20 MUNICIPAL PORT AUTHORITY LAW ENFORCEMENT
21 OFFICER.
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 14, Chapter 186, Subchapter 2, is
27 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

28 14-186-216. Municipal port authority police force – Establishment –
29 Powers and duties.

30 (a)(1) A municipal port authority may:

31 (A) Establish and organize a municipal port authority
32 police force;

33 (B) Appoint one (1) or more persons as a municipal port
34 authority law enforcement officer to aid and supplement the law enforcement
35 agencies of this state in the protection of the persons, property, and
36 facilities of the municipal port authority; and



1 (C) Apply for a grant applicable to law enforcement in
 2 order to support the funding of a municipal port authority police force.

3 (2) A municipal port authority that establishes and organizes a
 4 municipal port authority police force under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this
 5 section may fund the municipal port authority police force using:

6 (A) Fees collected by the municipal port authority from
 7 the operations of the municipal port authority authorized under this
 8 subchapter; and

9 (B) Funds received from grants.

10 (b)(1) A municipal port authority law enforcement officer appointed
 11 under this section shall:

12 (A) Be a certified law enforcement officer under § 12-9-
 13 101 et seq; and

14 (B) Except to the extent limited by the municipal port
 15 authority:

16 (i) Protect the property of the municipal port
 17 authority;

18 (ii) Preserve and maintain proper order and decorum
 19 on the property of the municipal port authority;

20 (iii) Prevent unlawful assemblies and disorderly
 21 conduct on the property of the municipal port authority;

22 (iv) Cooperate with law enforcement agencies and
 23 officers having jurisdiction where the property and facilities of the
 24 municipal port authority are located; and

25 (v) Exclude and eject persons from and prevent
 26 trespass upon the property, facilities, and waterways under the control of
 27 the municipal port authority.

28 (2) A municipal port authority law enforcement officer appointed
 29 under this section may:

30 (A) Arrest a person under § 16-81-106(b) and (c), whether
 31 on or off the property of the municipal port authority, for the violation of
 32 a law on the property of the municipal port authority;

33 (B) Carry weapons for the reasonable purposes of carrying
 34 out the duties of a municipal port authority law enforcement officer;

35 (C) Regulate the operation and parking of motor vehicles
 36 on the grounds of the municipal port authority and other grounds under the

1 control of the municipal port authority; and

2 (D) Regulate the operation and docking of watercraft on
3 the waterways under the control of the municipal port authority and on all
4 waterways adjoining and traversing the waterways and property of the
5 municipal port authority.

6 (c) A municipal port authority may promulgate rules providing for the
7 operation and organization of a municipal port authority police force.

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