

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 920 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas
90th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2015

As Engrossed: S3/18/15
A Bill

SENATE BILL 995

By: Senators Elliott, Bledsoe, L. Chesterfield, J. Hendren
By: Representative M. Hodges

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES AND OTHER RELEVANT STATE AGENCIES TO COOPERATE WITH PROFESSIONAL BOARDS, SOCIETIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS; TO ALLOW THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ASSESS ARKANSAS'S PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDS FOR PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE OR SKILLS IN DEGREED FIELDS OF STUDY AND WHO RENDER SPECIALIZED SERVICES; TO IDENTIFY "PROFESSIONALS OF NECESSITY" TO ENSURE A MIDDLE-CLASS STANDARD OF LIVING IN EVERY ARKANSAS COMMUNITY; TO EXPLORE STRATEGIES THAT WILL ENCOURAGE "PROFESSIONALS OF NECESSITY" TO LIVE AND WORK IN EVERY ARKANSAS COMMUNITY ESPECIALLY THOSE COMMUNITIES THAT ARE UNDERSERVED; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE STATE GOVERNMENT WORKFORCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE CERTAIN STATE AGENCIES TO COOPERATE WITH PROFESSIONAL ENTITIES; AND TO ASSESS THE NEED FOR PROFESSIONALS WITH SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS WHO CAN RENDER SPECIALIZED SERVICES TO UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES.

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



SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative intent.

The purpose of this act is to identify administrative and legislative action that can be used to encourage professionals of necessity to reside and work in every Arkansas community, especially those that are underprivileged and underserved.

SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Definitions.

As used in this act:

(1) "Professional board" means a board, agency, committee, commission, department, office, or other authority of the Arkansas state government that is charged with the duty, power, or responsibility to license, register, certify, or otherwise permit the practice of professionals to work in a designated field; and

(2) "Professional of necessity" means a professional who:

(A) Renders specialized services;

(B) Has specialized knowledge or skill in a degreed field of study; or

(C) Has derived specialized knowledge or skill from formal education or research.

SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Duties of the Department of Workforce Services.

(a) The Department of Workforce Services shall conduct meetings with or gather information from the various professional boards to achieve the following:

(1) Identify the communities of this state that are underserved by professionals of necessity;

(2) Assess the need for professionals of necessity to reside and work in underprivileged and underserved Arkansas communities;

(3) Explore strategies to encourage professionals of necessity to live and work in underprivileged and underserved Arkansas communities; and

(4) Recommend administrative and legislative action that may be taken to encourage professionals of necessity to live and work in underprivileged and underserved Arkansas communities.

(b) No later than November 15, 2016, the Department of Workforce Services shall report its findings under subsection (a) of this section to

the:

(1) House Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs and Senate Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs;

(2) House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development and Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development;

(3) President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and

(4) Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(c) Upon request, a professional board shall cooperate and assist the Department of Workforce Services in furtherance of this act.

/s/Elliott

APPROVED: 04/01/2015