

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.  
Act 781 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas  
91st General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: H3/14/17  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1880

By: Representative Dotson  
By: Senator E. Williams

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A SUNSET DATE FOR STATE AGENCY  
RULES; TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR A STATE AGENCY RULE  
TO EXIST BEYOND THE SUNSET DATE; AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH A SUNSET DATE FOR STATE  
AGENCY RULES; AND TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS  
FOR A STATE AGENCY RULE TO EXIST BEYOND  
THE SUNSET DATE.

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

*SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings and determinations.  
The General Assembly finds and determines that it is in the best  
interest of this state to conduct a periodic comprehensive consideration of  
agency rules.*

*SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 25, Chapter 15, is amended to add an  
additional subchapter to read as follows:*

*Subchapter 4 – Rule Report, Sunset, and Extension*

*25-15-401. Definitions.*

*As used in this subchapter:*

*(1)(A) “Agency” means a board, commission, department, office, or  
other authority of the government of the State of Arkansas, whether within or*



subject to review by another agency except the General Assembly, the courts, and the Governor.

(B) "Agency" includes the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education of the Department of Human Services and the Child Care Appeal Review Panel for purposes of administrative appeal;

(2)(A) "Rule" means an agency statement of general applicability and future effect that implements, interprets, or prescribes law or policy or describes the organization, procedure, or practice of an agency, including without limitation the amendment or repeal of a prior rule.

(B) "Rule" does not mean:

(i) A statement that concerns the internal management of an agency and that does not affect the private rights or procedures available to the public;

(ii) A declaratory ruling issued under § 25-15-206; or

(iii) Intra-agency memoranda; and

(3) "Rule making" means an agency process for the formulation, amendment, or repeal of a rule.

25-15-402. Report, sunset, and extension of rules.

(a)(1) Except as provided in § 25-15-403 and under subdivision (a)(2) of this section, unless a rule is extended by the Governor and the Legislative Council, an agency rule shall maintain in full force and effect for no more than twenty-four (24) years.

(2) However, this section does not prohibit an agency from proposing, amending, or repealing a rule in an ordinary fashion under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.

(b)(1) By December 1, 2017, each agency shall file an initial rule report with the Governor and the Legislative Council.

(2)(A) The initial rule report shall contain a list of all the rules in effect promulgated by the agency.

(B) The list of rules under subdivision (c)(2)(A) of this section shall include:

(i) The initial effective date of each rule;

(ii) The date that each rule was filed with the Secretary of State;

(iii) The authority under which the rule was

promulgated; and

(iv) If the rule is required under state or federal law, a statement regarding the requirement.

(c)(1) By July 1, 2018, each agency shall file a final rule report and shall continue to file a rule report according to the schedule determined under § 25-15-403.

(2)(A) The final rule report shall contain:

(i) A list of all rules in effect that distinguishes between rules that the agency will continue to enforce and rules that the agency wishes to repeal; and

(ii) The date that the agency filed its initial rule report under subdivision (b)(1)(A) of this section.

(B) The agency shall provide in writing the legal authority or agency justification for each rule that will continue to be enforced by the agency.

(C)(i) If the agency chooses to repeal a rule, the agency shall provide in writing the agency justification for repealing the rule.

(ii) A rule that an agency chooses to repeal under subdivision (a)(2)(C)(i) of this section is not subject to the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.

(3) The final rule report shall be assigned to the subject matter interim committees by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(d) By December 31, 2018, each of the subject matter interim committees shall:

(1) Consider the rules the agency wishes to repeal and the corresponding justifications submitted by the agency under subdivision (c)(2)(C) of this section;

(2) Consider the agency rules that will continue to be enforced by the agency and the corresponding justification submitted by the agency under subdivision (c)(2)(B) of this section;

(3) Allow an agency representative and the public to speak about the rules at an interim committee meeting;

(4) Recommend that the Legislative Council either accept or reject the agency's decision to repeal a rule; and

(5) Refer the agency rules that will continue to be enforced by

the agency to group consideration under § 25-15-403.

(e)(1) Before December 31 of the fourth year of the consideration of a group of agencies under § 25-15-403, the Legislative Council shall meet on a date or dates set by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to consider renewing the rules of the agencies scheduled for consideration.

(2) If the Legislative Council does not extend an agency's rules and the result is that the agency has no rules that address an issue that the agency is required by law to address by rule, the agency has sixty (60) days to initiate the rule-making process under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq., including without limitation adoption of an emergency rule.

(f)(1) If applicable, a final rule report under this section shall be updated by the agency to include and make note of any rule filed, amended, or repealed by the agency during the interim period of time occurring after July 1, 2018, and before it is sent to a group under § 25-15-403.

(2) An updated final rule report shall include the date the rule was filed, amended, or repealed during the interim.

25-15-403. Order of implementation.

(a)(1) The agency rules shall be divided in six (6) groups to be determined by the Governor to ensure that the number of agencies in each group and the number of subject matter areas represented by each group are approximately equal.

(2) If the Governor has not determined the groups by January 1, 2019, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall determine the six (6) groups to ensure that the number of agencies in each group and the number of subject-matter areas represented by each group are approximately equal.

(3) If neither the Governor nor the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives have determined the groups by April 1, 2019, all of the state agencies shall be subject to immediate evaluation in one (1) group and:

(A) Except as provided in § 25-15-402 concerning an initial rule report, a final rule report shall be filed by an agency:

(i) No earlier than May 1, 2019, and no later than

July 1, 2019; and

(ii) No earlier than May 1 of every twenty-fourth year after May 1, 2019, and no later than July 1 of every twenty-fourth year after July 1, 2019; and

(B) The evaluation shall be completed no later than:

(i) December 31, 2042; and

(ii) December 31 of every twenty-fourth year after December 31, 2042.

(b)(1) Each group of agencies assigned under subdivision (a)(1) or subdivision (a)(2) of this section shall be evaluated in a four-year time period.

(2) Group 1 shall file a report:

(A) No earlier than May 1, 2019, and no later than July 1, 2019; and

(B) No earlier than May 1 of every twenty-fourth year after May 1, 2019, and no later than July 1 of every twenty-fourth year after July 1, 2019.

(3) Group 2 shall file a report:

(A) No earlier than May 1, 2023, and no later than July 1, 2023; and

(B) No earlier than May 1 of every twenty-fourth year after May 1, 2023, and no later than July 1 of every twenty-fourth year after July 1, 2023.

(4) Group 3 shall file a report:

(A) No earlier than May 1, 2027, and no later than July 1, 2027; and

(B) No earlier than May 1 of every twenty-fourth year after May 1, 2027, and no later than January 1 of every twenty-fourth year after July 1, 2027.

(5) Group 4 shall file a report:

(A) No earlier than May 1, 2031, and no later than July 1, 2031; and

(B) No earlier than May 1 of every twenty-fourth year after May 1, 2031, and no later than July 1 of every twenty-fourth year after July 1, 2031.

(6) Group 5 shall file a report:

(A) No earlier than May 1, 2035, and no later than July 1, 2035; and

(B) No earlier than May 1 of every twenty-fourth year after May 1, 2035, and no later than July 1 of every twenty-fourth year after July 1, 2035.

(7) Group 6 shall file a report:

(A) No earlier than May 1, 2039, and no later than July 1, 2039; and

(B) No earlier than May 1 of every twenty-fourth year after May 1, 2039, and no later than January 1 of every twenty-fourth year after July 1, 2039.

(c) Agency rules that have been in effect for twenty-four (24) years or longer on the enactment date of this act shall remain in effect until the date of their first scheduled evaluation as provided under this section unless otherwise approved or rejected in accordance with the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.

/s/Dotson

**APPROVED: 03/31/2017**