

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

SENATE BILL 128

By: Senator J. English
By: Representative Dotson

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT; TO DELEGATE THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ARKANSAS CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT; AND TO DELEGATE THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ARKANSAS CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PROGRAM.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 12-75-111(b) and (c), concerning the powers and duties of the Division of Emergency Management, are amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) The ~~division~~ Division of Emergency Management shall take an integral part in the development and revision of local and interjurisdictional emergency operations plans prepared under § 12-75-118.

(2)(A) To meet the requirements of subdivision (b)(1) of this section, the ~~division~~ Division of Emergency Management shall employ or otherwise secure the services of professional and technical personnel capable of providing expert assistance to political subdivisions, their local offices of emergency management, interjurisdictional planning, and interjurisdictional offices of emergency management.



(B) Personnel described in subdivision (b)(2)(A) of this section shall consult with political subdivisions, local offices of emergency management, and interjurisdictional offices of emergency management on a regularly scheduled basis and shall make field examinations of the area, circumstances, and conditions to which particular local and interjurisdictional emergency operations plans are intended to apply and may suggest or require revisions.

(c)(1) ~~The division~~ Division of Emergency Management shall administer and operate the Arkansas Wireless Information Network.

(2) ~~The division~~ Division of Emergency Management shall perform all functions necessary to maintain and operate the Arkansas Wireless Information Network, including without limitation:

(A) Employ personnel;

(B) Manage, maintain, and acquire all equipment and assets;

(C) Enter into contracts and lease agreements on behalf of the Arkansas Wireless Information Network; and

(D) Administer the budget, expenditures, and all funding of the Arkansas Wireless Information Network.

(d)(1) The Division of Emergency Management shall administer the Arkansas Continuity of Operations Program.

(2) The Arkansas Continuity of Operations Program shall assist state departments, boards, and commissions to:

(A) Develop an emergency operations plan;

(B) Maintain an emergency operations plan; and

(C) Test an emergency action plan.

(3) The Arkansas Continuity of Operations Program shall provide or assist a state department, board, or commission with emergency operation plan:

(A) Methodology;

(B) Hardware;

(C) Software;

(D) Training; and

(E) User assistance.

(4) The Division of Emergency Management may request the assistance of the Division of Information Systems in reviewing technology

related emergency operation plans.

APPROVED: 2/4/21