

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1626

By: Representative Evans

By: Senator J. Dismang

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SELF-INSURED FIDELITY BOND PROGRAM; TO MODIFY THE SELF-INSURED FIDELITY BOND PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING THE SELF-INSURED FIDELITY BOND PROGRAM; TO MODIFY THE SELF-INSURED FIDELITY BOND PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 21, Chapter 2, Subchapter 7, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

21-2-712. Other bond requirements of participating governmental entities.

A participating governmental entity that participates in the Self-Insured Fidelity Bond Program under this subchapter is considered to have satisfied any other statutorily required bond requirements for the participating governmental entity under state law.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that a participating governmental



entity may be exposed to fraud, theft, and other acts of malfeasance by public employees and public officials; that this exposure exists because of possible inadequate statutory bond coverage and the uncertainty of bond requirements for participating governmental entities under the Self-Insured Fidelity Bond Program, § 21-2-701 et seq.; and that this act is immediately necessary because previous legislation changes leave uncertainty in the Self-Insured Fidelity Bond Program, § 21-2-701 et seq., applicable to participating governmental entities, and clarity is necessary to address the statewide coverage of participating governmental entities in the Self-Insured Fidelity Bond Program, § 21-2-701 et seq. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

APPROVED: 4/11/23