

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1607

By: Representative Rose

By: Senator B. Davis

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE OFFICE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION
WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, HERITAGE, AND
TOURISM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE OFFICE OF OUTDOOR
RECREATION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS, HERITAGE, AND TOURISM.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 14-270-202(a), concerning the elements of the FUN Parks Grants Program, is amended to read as follows:

(a) There is ~~hereby~~ established the FUN Parks Grants Program to be administered by the ~~Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism~~ Office of Outdoor Recreation.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 14-270-203 is amended to read as follows:
14-270-203. Authorization.

The ~~Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism~~ Office of Outdoor Recreation ~~is herein authorized to~~ may promulgate procedures, rules, or guidelines necessary for the administration of the FUN Parks Grants Program.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 25, Chapter 43, Subchapter 13, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

25-43-1310. Office of Outdoor Recreation – Creation – Powers and Duties.



(a) There is created the Office of Outdoor Recreation within the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism.

(b) The Secretary of the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism may delegate duties and responsibilities to the office.

(c)(1) The secretary may employ a Director of the Office of Outdoor Recreation.

(2) The director shall serve as the coordinator for the development of an organizational framework to ensure that outdoor recreation programs and policies are well-planned and coordinated.

(3)(A) The director, in cooperation with the Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Grant Advisory Committee, shall administer the FUN Parks Grants Program under § 14-270-202.

(B) Funding for the FUN Parks Grants Program shall be from the Parks and Tourism Outdoor Recreation Grants Fund as specified in § 19-5-1051.

(d) The office shall promulgate rules necessary for the implementation and maintenance of the FUN Parks Grants Program including without limitation rules concerning the:

(1) Grant application procedure;

(2) Grant selection criteria;

(3) Usage limitations on grant money; and

(4) Accountability procedures for grant recipients.

(e) The director shall provide an annual written report to the State Parks, Recreation, and Travel Commission on the activities of the office.

APPROVED: 3/18/25