

State of Arkansas  
95th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H2/25/25

## A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1516

By: Representative Richmond

By: Senator Crowell

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING EXAMINATIONS AND FINDINGS RELATED TO THE CONTROL OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASES; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE CLASSIFICATION OF FINES FOR ENFORCEMENT OF CERTAIN ACTIONS RELATED TO FOREST RESOURCES; TO ESTABLISH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LAW ENFORCEMENT FUND; TO AUTHORIZE THE AWARD OF A PISTOL UPON THE DEATH OR RETIREMENT OF A DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO AMEND VARIOUS LAWS CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 2-40-106 is amended to read as follows:

2-40-106. Examinations and findings.

(a)(1) Any veterinary inspector or other employee duly authorized by the ~~Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission~~ Department of Agriculture shall have the privilege of entering upon any property or premises in this state for the purpose of examining or testing animals which he or she has reason to believe are affected with a contagious or infectious disease so as to constitute a menace to the livestock and poultry of the community.

(2) He or she may call on one (1) or more peace officers. It shall be their duty to give him or her all assistance in their power.



(b)(1) When ordered by the State Veterinarian, owners or persons in charge of animals shall assemble them at a designated time and place for the purpose of examining, testing, treating, necropsy, disinfecting, or for any other purpose.

(2)(A) If after examination of suspected animals the veterinary inspector shall find them to be affected with any reportable disease, he or she shall furnish the owner or person in charge of the animals with a report of his or her findings and with a copy of the existing law and rules of the ~~commission~~ department in regard to the disease.

(B) ~~Any person who, after notification, shall fail to comply with the rules shall be guilty of an administrative penalty. He or she shall also be liable for damages to others due to infection from his or her stock. A person who, after notification, fails to comply with the rules of the department shall be:~~

(1) Guilty of a violation and subject to a fine not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300); and

(2) Liable for the damages to others due to infection from his or her stock.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code §§ 15-31-113 and 15-31-114 are amended to read as follows:

15-31-113. Legislative findings – Purpose.

(a) The General Assembly finds:

(1) ~~The Arkansas Forestry Commission~~ Department of Agriculture enforces laws pertaining to wildland fires, timber theft, and unlawful dumping on forest land;

(2) Under current law, fines resulting from violations of the wildland fire laws are deposited with local school districts; and

(3) The law is silent on where to deposit fines resulting from violations of the dumping and timber theft laws.

(b) The purpose of this section and § 15-31-114 is to establish that fines generated by law enforcement activities of the ~~commission~~ department be deposited into the ~~State Forestry Fund~~ Department of Agriculture Law Enforcement Fund.

15-31-114. Classification of fines.

Fines deposited into the ~~State Forestry~~ Department of Agriculture Law Enforcement Fund shall be classified as special revenues.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 19-6-301, concerning the enumeration of special revenues, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(276) Fines collected under §§ 15-31-113(b) and 15-31-114.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Title 19, Chapter 6, Subchapter 8, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

19-6-845. Department of Agriculture Law Enforcement Fund.

(a) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, the Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a special revenue fund to be known as the "Department of Agriculture Law Enforcement Fund".

(b) The fund shall consist of:

(1) The fines collected under § 15-31-113(b) and § 15-31-114;

and

(2) Any other revenues as may be authorized by law.

(c) All fines and penalties resulting from arrests made or citations issued by Department of Agriculture law enforcement officers deposited into the fund shall be used exclusively by the department in carrying out the department's law enforcement functions, powers, and duties as provided by law.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code Title 25, Chapter 38, Subchapter 2, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

25-38-213. Award of pistol upon retirement or death.

When a Department of Agriculture law enforcement officer retires from service or dies while still employed with the department, in recognition of and appreciation for the service of the retiring or deceased law enforcement officer, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture may award the pistol carried by the law enforcement officer at the time of his or her death or retirement from service to:

(1) The law enforcement officer; or

(2) If the law enforcement officer is deceased, the law enforcement officer's spouse if the law enforcement officer's spouse is

eligible under applicable state and federal laws to possess a firearm.

*/s/Richmond*

**APPROVED: 3/18/25**