

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

SENATE BILL 344

By: Senator Irvin

By: Representative L. Johnson

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO TRANSFER THE HEALTHY EMPLOYEE LIFESTYLE PROGRAM FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSFORMATION AND SHARED SERVICES; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE HEALTHY LIFESTYLE PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO TRANSFER THE HEALTHY EMPLOYEE LIFESTYLE PROGRAM FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSFORMATION AND SHARED SERVICES; AND TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE HEALTHY LIFESTYLE PROGRAM.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Cabinet-level department transfer of the Healthy Employee Lifestyle Program from Department of Health to Department of Transformation and Shared Services.

(a) The Healthy Employee Lifestyle Program is transferred by a cabinet-level department transfer under § 25-43-101 et seq. from the Department of Health to the Department of Transformation and Shared Services.

(b) The administrative functions of the Healthy Employee Lifestyle Program are transferred by a cabinet-level department transfer under § 25-43-1502 from the Department of Health to the Department of Transformation and Shared Services.

(c) The statutory authority, powers, duties, functions, records,



personnel, property, contracts, and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, or other funds, including the functions of budgeting or purchasing of the Healthy Employee Lifestyle Program, are transferred to the Department of Transformation and Shared Services.

(d)(1) The transfer of the Healthy Employee Lifestyle Program does not affect the orders, rules, regulations, directives, or standards made or promulgated by the Healthy Employee Lifestyle Program before the effective date of this act.

(2) The orders, rules, regulations, directives, or standards under subdivision (d)(1) of this section shall continue to be in effect until amended or repealed under authority given by law.

(e) The Department of Health shall grant access to and provide all information requested by the Healthy Employee Lifestyle Program to accomplish the transfer of the Healthy Employee Lifestyle Program and the mission of the Healthy Employee Lifestyle Program.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 21-4-106 is amended to read as follows:

21-4-106. ~~Leave of absence for participation in~~ Healthy Employee Lifestyle Program – Definitions.

(a) As used in this section:

~~(1) "Agency" means a department, agency, bureau, including the Bureau of Legislative Research, board, or commission of any branch of state government;~~

~~(2) "Employee" means a full-time employee of the State of Arkansas or any branch, department, agency, board, bureau, including the Bureau of Legislative Research, or commission of any branch of state government; and~~

~~(3)(2) "Healthy Employee Lifestyle Program" means the incentive program of the Department of Health~~ Department of Transformation and Shared Services that will reward encourages and rewards an employee for regular exercise, good nutrition, and other healthy lifestyle choices; and

(3) "State entity" means a department, agency, bureau, including the Bureau of Legislative Research, board, or commission of any branch of state government.

~~(b)(1) Upon completion of a pilot program to be conducted by the department, the department~~ The department shall:

(A) ~~Make~~ Manage the Healthy Employee Lifestyle Program available to all agency directors; and

(B) Assist ~~the agencies~~ state entities in the administration of the Healthy Employee Lifestyle Program's implementation Program.

(2) ~~Upon completion of the pilot program, every agency director shall consider making the Healthy Employee Lifestyle Program available to the agency's employees. On or before July 1, 2026, a state entity shall allow for employee participation in the Healthy Employee Lifestyle Program.~~

(c)(1) ~~At the discretion of the agency director, an employee may be granted paid leave of up to three (3) days per calendar year for satisfactory compliance with the Healthy Employee Lifestyle Program. The department shall determine appropriate methods to reward employees who satisfactorily complete the requirements of the Healthy Employee Lifestyle Program.~~

(2) A reward under subdivision (c)(1) of this section may include up to twenty-four (24) hours of leave per calendar year.

~~(2)(3) The leave granted under subdivision (c)(2) of this section shall be used in the calendar year in which it was granted within six (6) months of approval.~~

~~(3)(4) The leave granted under subdivision (c)(2) of this section is not compensable at termination.~~

(d) Each ~~agency~~ state entity shall identify and maintain, if practicable, in or near each agency building an area or areas that employees may use for walking exercise.

APPROVED: 4/3/25