

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1898

By: Representative Painter

By: Senator Crowell

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DIVISIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION; TO COMBINE THE EXISTING REGULATORY AND ENFORCEMENT FUNCTIONS RELATED TO TOBACCO, MEDICAL MARIJUANA, AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION; TO CREATE THE REGULATORY DIVISION AND THE REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT DIVISION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION; TO COMBINE THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL ENFORCEMENT DIVISION AND THE ARKANSAS TOBACCO CONTROL ENFORCEMENT DIVISION INTO THE REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT DIVISION; TO ALLOW FOR PERSONNEL OF THE REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION TO BE DESIGNATED AS AGENTS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE REGULATORY DIVISION AND THE REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT DIVISION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION; AND TO ALLOW PERSONNEL OF THE REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT DIVISION TO BE DESIGNATED AS AGENTS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 25, Chapter 8, Subchapter 1, is amended



to add additional sections to read as follows:

25-8-111. Regulatory Division of the Department of Finance and Administration – Regulatory Administrator.

(a) The Regulatory Division is created within the Department of Finance and Administration.

(b) The Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration shall appoint a Regulatory Administrator to oversee the Regulatory Division of the Department of Finance and Administration.

(c) The administrator shall:

(1) Serve at the pleasure of the secretary;

(2) Report to the secretary; and

(3) Maintain oversight of:

(A) The Alcoholic Beverage Control Division;

(B) Arkansas Tobacco Control;

(C) The Arkansas Racing Commission; and

(D) The Regulatory Enforcement Division of the Department of Finance and Administration.

25-8-112. Regulatory Enforcement Division.

(a) The Regulatory Enforcement Division is created within the Regulatory Division of the Department of Finance and Administration.

(b) The Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration shall appoint an Enforcement Director to oversee the Regulatory Enforcement Division of the Department of Finance and Administration.

(c) The director shall:

(1) Serve at the pleasure of the secretary; and

(2) Report to the Regulatory Administrator of the Regulatory Division of the Department of Finance and Administration.

(d) The Regulatory Enforcement Division of the Department of Finance and Administration is designated as a law enforcement agency.

(e) The director shall assign personnel as agents of the Regulatory Enforcement Division of the Department of Finance and Administration to conduct investigations related to the violation of:

(1) State law governing:

(A) Tobacco;

(B) Alcohol;

(C) Medical marijuana; or

(D) Gambling or the promotion of gambling; and

(2) Rules promulgated by the:

(A) Alcoholic Beverage Control Board;

(B) Medical Marijuana Commission; or

(C) Tobacco Control Board.

(f) Personnel assigned as agents of the Regulatory Enforcement Division of the Department of Finance and Administration under subsection (e) of this section shall:

(1) Present findings to the relevant board regarding the investigation of a violation of rules promulgated by the entities listed in subdivision (e)(2) of this section;

(2) Be considered full-time law enforcement officers by the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training under § 12-9-101 et seq.; and

(3) Have statewide law enforcement authority.

(g) The director may refer any investigation authorized under this section to a prosecuting attorney or a law enforcement agency.

APPROVED: 4/17/25