

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1860

By: Representative Leding

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY TO STATE GOVERNMENT REGULATORY DATA; TO REQUIRE THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN A DATABASE OF REGULATORY DATA FOR EACH STATE AGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO PROVIDE INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY TO STATE GOVERNMENT REGULATORY DATA; AND TO REQUIRE THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN A DATABASE OF REGULATORY DATA FOR EACH STATE AGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 25, Chapter 1, is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 5 – Arkansas Regulatory Accessibility Act

25-1-501. Title.

This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the “Arkansas Regulatory Accessibility Act”.

25-1-502. Legislative intent.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Information technology has evolved to allow unprecedented levels of accessibility to regulatory and other information;



(2) Information technology allowing access to regulatory and other information through the Internet now exists and is available to state government; and

(3) Access to regulatory and other information on an ongoing and regular basis will:

(A) Assist citizens in navigating the applicable regulations and requirements of state government; and

(B) Allow for a higher degree of accessibility and efficiency in the workings of all branches of state government.

25-1-503. Definitions.

As used in this section:

(1) "Regulatory data" means information provided by a state agency regarding the following:

(A) Local, state, and federal rules and regulations applicable to Arkansans;

(B) Requirements for licenses and permits;

(C) Applications for licenses and permits;

(D) Forms needed to submit taxes, fees, and other required payments; and

(E) Contact information for the person who administers each of the items in subdivisions (1)(A)–(D) of this section;

(2)(A) "State agency" means any agency, department, authority, board, commission, bureau, council, or other agency of the state excluding institutions of higher education.

(B) "State agency" includes without limitation:

(i) The offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer of State, Auditor of State, and Commissioner of State Lands;

(ii) Legislative commissions, bureaus, and offices;

(iii) Judicial offices;

(iv) Constitutional offices, commissions, and departments that receive a state appropriation for the expenditure of state funds, special revenues, or federal funds; and

(v) The Arkansas Lottery Commission; and

(3) "Website" means a site on the Internet:

- (A) Identifiable by a specific Uniform Resource Locator;
- (B) Accessible to the public at no cost; and
- (C) Requiring no information of the user.

25-1-504. Duties of the Secretary of State.

(a) The Secretary of State shall:

- (1) Establish standards and criteria for each state agency to report regulatory data;
 - (2) Develop and maintain a database of regulatory data as required under this subchapter; and
 - (3) Develop a website presenting regulatory data for each state agency that shall:
 - (A) Report regulatory data in a common format;
 - (B) Include regulatory data of state government in an interactive format;
 - (C) Allow searches of regulatory data in a common format;
- and
- (D) Be updated on a regular basis to present regulatory data for the current year.

(b) The Secretary of State shall promulgate rules to implement this subchapter, including without limitation rules concerning the reporting of additional information under this subchapter.

25-1-505. Cooperation by state agencies with the Secretary of State – Report.

(a) Each state agency shall:

- (1) Cooperate with the Secretary of State to meet the requirements of this subchapter; and
- (2) Take actions necessary to provide information under this subchapter.

(b)(1) The Secretary of State shall report annually to the Legislative Council the name of each state agency that does not provide information under this subchapter.

(2) A copy of the report under subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall be posted on the website required under this subchapter immediately after presentation to the Legislative Council.

SECTION 2. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY.

The website established by this act shall be operational and shall meet the requirements of this act by July 1, 2014.