

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

A Bill

SENATE BILL 482

By: Senators S. Flowers, Bledsoe

By: Representative Ferguson

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REINSTATE THE MINIMAL QUALIFICATIONS OF THE
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REINSTATE THE MINIMAL QUALIFICATIONS
OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-7-103(a) and (b), concerning members and officers of the State Board of Health, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The members of the State Board of Health shall elect one (1) of the members as president. ~~However, the Director of the Department of Health shall not serve as the President of the State Board of Health.~~

(b)(1) The board shall nominate to the Governor a Director of the Department of Health.

(2)(A) The Governor shall appoint the director who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

(3) The director shall:

(A) Serve as the State Health Officer;

(B) Serve as the Secretary for the State Board of Health and shall have all the powers of a member of the board;

(C)(i)(a) Be a licensed medical doctor who is a graduate of a school of medicine recognized by the Arkansas State Medical Board; and



(b) Hold a graduate degree in public health or a graduate degree in a recognized public health discipline from an accredited college or university or have equivalent knowledge and experience in public health as determined by the State Board of Health; and

(c) Have experience in the practice of public health and in leadership and management, the sufficiency of which shall be determined by the State Board of Health; or

(ii) Hold a doctoral degree in public health or a doctoral degree in a recognized public health discipline from an accredited college or university with at least five (5) years of experience in the practice of public health and at least ten (10) years of experience in the leadership and management of a large complex organization the sufficiency of which shall be determined by the State Board of Health.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 25-9-101(a)(2), concerning the appointment of the director of the Department of Health, is repealed.

~~(2)(A) The Governor shall appoint the Director of the Department of Health if established, and otherwise the Director of the Division of Health of the Department of Health and Human Services.~~

~~(B) The director shall:~~

~~(i) Serve as the executive head of the Department of Health or the Division of Health of the Department of Health and Human Services;~~

~~(ii) Serve at the pleasure of the Governor;~~

~~(iii) Act as the Secretary for the State Board of Health; and~~

~~(iv) Serve as the State Health Officer, with appropriate authority to ensure public health and safety, including leadership on health issues related to emergency preparedness and disaster management.~~