

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

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2183

By: Representative Lowery

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS WHISTLE-BLOWER ACT; TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "WHISTLEBLOWER"; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS WHISTLE-BLOWER ACT; AND TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "WHISTLEBLOWER".

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 21-1-602(2), concerning definitions pertaining to the Arkansas Whistle-Blower Act, is amended to read as follows:

(2)(A) "Appropriate authority" means the office of the Attorney General;

~~(i) A state, county, or municipal government department, agency, or organization having jurisdiction over criminal law enforcement, regulatory violations, professional conduct or ethics, or waste;~~
~~or~~

~~(ii) A member, officer, agent, investigator, auditor, representative, or supervisory employee of the body, agency, or organization.~~

~~(B) "Appropriate authority" includes, but is not limited to, the office of the Attorney General, the office of the Auditor of State, the Arkansas Ethics Commission, the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee and Arkansas Legislative Audit, and the offices of the various prosecuting attorneys having the power and duty to investigate criminal law enforcement,~~



~~regulatory violations, professional conduct or ethics, or waste;~~

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 21-1-602(8), concerning definitions pertaining to the Arkansas Whistle-Blower Act, is amended to read as follows:

(8) "Whistle-blower" means a person who witnesses or has evidence of a waste or violation while employed with a public employer and who communicates in good faith or testifies to the waste or violation, verbally or in writing, to ~~one of the employee's superiors, to an agent of the public employer, or to an~~ the appropriate authority, provided that the communication is made ~~prior to~~ before any adverse action by the employer.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 21-1-610(b), concerning the reward to a state employee when communication of waste or violation results in savings of state funds, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A state employee making a communication under § 21-1-603 shall be eligible to receive a reward in an amount equal to ~~ten percent (10%)~~ twenty percent (20%) of any savings in state funds attributable to changes made based on a communication under § 21-1-603.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 21-1-610(d)(2)(A)(iii), concerning the reward to a state employee when communication of waste or violation results in savings of state funds, is amended to read as follows:

(iii) The amount of the reward for which the state employee is eligible. The amount of the reward shall be equal to ~~ten percent (10%)~~ twenty percent (20%) of the total savings in state funds reported under subdivision (d)(2)(A)(i) of this section. If the state employer concludes that the state employee is not eligible for a reward, the state employer shall state the reasons for that determination in the report.