

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

State of Arkansas
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

A Bill

SENATE BILL 631

By: Senator Hester
By: Representative Lundstrum

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT CITIES AND COUNTIES FROM DENYING
OR HINDERING PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS THE RIGHT TO
REMOVE OR TRIM TREES, BUSHES, OR SHRUBS; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO PROHIBIT CITIES AND COUNTIES FROM
DENYING OR HINDERING PRIVATE PROPERTY
OWNERS THE RIGHT TO REMOVE OR TRIM TREES,
BUSHES, OR SHRUBS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 14, Chapter 1, is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 5 – Landowner Tree Maintenance Protection Act

14-1-501. Title.

This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Landowner Tree Maintenance Protection Act".

14-1-502. Findings and legislative intent.

(a) The General Assembly finds that the right to own, use, and enjoy private property:

(1) Is protected by the Arkansas Constitution and the United



States Constitution;

(2) Is a hallmark of Arkansas and American society that is deeply embedded in the fabric of both urban and rural societies; and

(3) Should be protected from undue interference by state and local government.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly by this subchapter to preserve and protect the property rights of citizens by ensuring that county and local governments do not prohibit or hinder a landowner from trimming or removing the landowner's trees, bushes, or shrubs.

14-1-503. Definitions.As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Landowner" means:

(A) An individual or entity that owns real property; and

(B) The authorized agents of an individual or entity that owns real property; and

(2) "Tree maintenance" means trimming or removing a tree, bush, or shrub.

14-1-504. County and municipal ordinances restricting tree maintenance prohibited – Exceptions.

(a) A county, city, or incorporated town shall not restrict by ordinance or otherwise the right of a landowner to perform tree maintenance on the landowner's property.

(b) Subsection (a) of this section does not permit a landowner to perform tree maintenance on the landowner's property if the tree maintenance on the landowner's property would violate:

(1) A real property covenant or deed restriction;

(2) A bill of assurance; or

(3) A requirement or restriction imposed by a homeowners' association, a property owners' association, or a similar organization whether imposed by a duly recorded master deed and bylaws or otherwise.

14-1-505. Conflicting ordinances repealed.

An ordinance of a county, city, or incorporated town that conflicts with this subchapter is repealed to the extent of the conflict.