

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

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

A Bill

SENATE BILL 56

By: Senator Hill
By: Representative Wardlaw

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REGULATE THE USE OF SOCIAL CREDIT SCORES
BASED ON ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL JUSTICE, OR GOVERNANCE
SCORES OR METRICS; TO PROHIBIT A STATE AGENCY FROM
ENGAGING IN DISCRIMINATION BASED ON THE USE OF A
SOCIAL CREDIT SYSTEM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REGULATE THE USE OF SOCIAL CREDIT
SCORES BASED ON ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL
JUSTICE, OR GOVERNANCE SCORES OR METRICS;
AND TO PROHIBIT A STATE AGENCY FROM
ENGAGING IN DISCRIMINATION BASED ON THE
USE OF A SOCIAL CREDIT SYSTEM.

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 10 – Environmental, Social Justice, or Governance Scores or Metrics

25-1-1001. Legislative intent.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) The fossil fuel, firearm, and ammunition industries:

(A) Produce consumer-ready resources;

(B) Create thousands of jobs for Arkansas' workforce; and



(C) Remain committed to the safety of Arkansas communities and the preservation of the environment;

(2) The fossil fuel, firearm, and ammunition industries have been discriminated against at the national level;

(3) In order to be successful in the fossil fuel, firearm, and ammunition industries, these businesses rely on the provision of Arkansas goods and services;

(4) Federal and state regulators are using their regulatory power over the banking and financial systems to drive political agendas which distort limited government, free market, and free speech principles;

(5) Rulemaking, regardless of asset thresholds, has a real risk of impacting smaller financial institutions; and

(6) Certain states are interfering in the free market by encouraging or discouraging lending to politically favored or disfavored industries to the detriment of taxpayers.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that a state agency shall refrain from enacting rules or issuing guidance that restricts the ability of a business in this state to offer products or services to the fossil fuel, firearm, or ammunition industries.

25-1-1002. Social credit score or other environmental, social justice, or governance score or metric – Prohibited use – Definition.

(a) As used in this section, "state agency" means an office, board, commission, department, council, bureau, governmental entity, or other agency of state government having authority to promulgate or enforce rules.

(b) A state agency shall not share information, adopt laws, promulgate rules, or issue guidance that restricts the ability of a business to offer products or services to the fossil fuel industry, firearm manufacturer and retailers of firearms, firearm accessories, or ammunition for purposes of a social credit system.