

By: Senator B. King

SENATE RESOLUTION

TO AUTHORIZE THE INTRODUCTION OF A NONAPPROPRIATION BILL TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS DATA CENTERS ACT OF 2023; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE POWERS OF THE ARKANSAS NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION; TO MONITOR THE IMPACT OF BLOCKCHAIN NETWORKS AND DIGITAL ASSET MINING ON WATER USAGE; TO ALLOW FOR THE CLOSURE OF BLOCKCHAIN NETWORKS OR DIGITAL ASSET MINING OPERATIONS IF WATER USAGE IS EXCESSIVE; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION; TO MONITOR THE IMPACT OF BLOCKCHAIN NETWORKS AND DIGITAL ASSET MINING ON THE ELECTRIC GRID; AND TO ALLOW FOR THE HALT OF BLOCKCHAIN NETWORKS OR DIGITAL ASSET MINING OPERATIONS IF THE ELECTRIC GRID IS THREATENED.

Subtitle

TO AUTHORIZE THE INTRODUCTION OF A NONAPPROPRIATION BILL TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS DATA CENTERS ACT OF 2023; AND TO REGULATE THE IMPACT ON WATER USAGE AND THE ELECTRIC GRID BY BLOCKCHAIN NETWORKS AND DIGITAL ASSET MINING.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT Senator King is authorized to introduce a bill which as introduced



will read substantially as follows:

“Title

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS DATA CENTERS ACT OF 2023; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE POWERS OF THE ARKANSAS NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION; TO MONITOR THE IMPACT OF BLOCKCHAIN NETWORKS AND DIGITAL ASSET MINING ON WATER USAGE; TO ALLOW FOR THE CLOSURE OF BLOCKCHAIN NETWORKS OR DIGITAL ASSET MINING OPERATIONS IF WATER USAGE IS EXCESSIVE; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION; TO MONITOR THE IMPACT OF BLOCKCHAIN NETWORKS AND DIGITAL ASSET MINING ON THE ELECTRIC GRID; TO ALLOW FOR THE HALT OF BLOCKCHAIN NETWORKS OR DIGITAL ASSET MINING OPERATIONS IF THE ELECTRIC GRID IS THREATENED; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS DATA CENTERS ACT OF 2023; AND TO REGULATE THE IMPACT ON WATER USAGE AND THE ELECTRIC GRID BY BLOCKCHAIN NETWORKS AND DIGITAL ASSET MINING.

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 14, Chapter 1, Subchapter 6, is amended to add additional sections to read as follows:

14-1-606. Arkansas Natural Resources Commission to monitor impact of blockchain networks and digital asset mining on water usage – Rules.

The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission:

(1) Shall monitor the impact of blockchain networks and digital asset mining on water usage in this state;

(2) May take action under § 15-22-204 against a blockchain network or a digital asset mining business if the impact of the blockchain network or digital asset mining business threatens the critical groundwater supplies of this state through an excessive use of water; and

(3)(A) Shall promulgate rules to implement this section.

(B) A proposed rule by the commission promulgated under this section shall be approved by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee under § 10-3-309.

14-1-607. Arkansas Public Service Commission to monitor impact of blockchain networks and digital asset mining on electric grid – Rules.

The Arkansas Public Service Commission:

(1) Shall monitor the impact of blockchain networks and digital asset mining on the electric grid;

(2) May direct a utility to halt service to a blockchain network or digital asset mining business if the impact of the blockchain network or digital asset mining business threatens the reliability of the electric grid; and

(3)(A) Shall promulgate rules to implement this section.

(B) A proposed rule by the commission promulgated under this section shall be approved by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee under § 10-3-309.

SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Rules.

(a) The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission and the Arkansas Public Service Commission shall promulgate rules necessary to implement this act.

(b)(1) When adopting the initial rules to implement this act, the final rule shall be filed with the Secretary of State for adoption under § 25-15-204(f):

(A) On or before January 1, 2025; or

(B) If approval under § 10-3-309 has not occurred by January 1, 2025, as soon as practicable after approval under § 10-3-309.

(2) The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission and the Arkansas Public Service Commission shall file the proposed rule with the Legislative Council under § 10-3-309(c) sufficiently in advance of January 1, 2025, so that the Legislative Council may consider the rule for approval before January 1, 2025.”