

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

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H3/11/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1519

By: Representatives Cavanaugh, Beaty Jr.

By: Senator Gilmore

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ALLOW THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HIRING AND CONTRACTING OF EMPLOYEES FOR THE STATE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT, STATE BANK DEPARTMENT, AND STATE SECURITIES DEPARTMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ALLOW THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HIRING AND CONTRACTING OF EMPLOYEES FOR THE STATE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT, STATE BANK DEPARTMENT, AND STATE SECURITIES DEPARTMENT.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings and intent.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Shared services allow state agencies to streamline workflows, accelerate decision-making, and improve administrative responsiveness;

(2) This act allows for the pooling of resources and the coordination of essential services, such as human resources, procurement, and information technology, to enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and minimize waste while complying with state and federal law; and

(3) Shared services allow state agencies to benefit from standardized services, encourages collaboration, interagency cooperation, and



resource sharing, fostering greater knowledge exchange and expertise across government entities.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Secretary of Commerce who participates in shared services shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 25-43-303(e), concerning the duties and powers of the Secretary of the Department of Commerce, is amended to read as follows:

(e) The secretary may, unless otherwise provided by law:

- (1) Hire Department of Commerce personnel;
- (2) Perform or assign duties assigned to the Department of

Commerce; and

(3) ~~Be appointed~~ Except as provided under subdivision (f)(1) of this section, serve as the director or the administrative or executive head of any state entity under the administrative control of the Department of Commerce if the secretary also meets all statutory requirements for the position.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 25-43-303(g)(1), concerning the ability of the Secretary of the Department of Commerce to delegate hiring decisions, is amended to read as follows:

(g)(1) The secretary *shall* delegate the authority to hire employees and to make employment contracts for work performed to the following officers for their respective departments, to the extent necessary to comply with state or federal law:

- (A) The Insurance Commissioner;
- (B) The Bank Commissioner; and
- (C) The Securities Commissioner.

/s/Cavanaugh