

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: H3/6/25

## A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1548

By: Representative S. Meeks

By: Senator J. Bryant

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE DIVISION OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS; TO ABOLISH THE DATA AND TRANSPARENCY PANEL; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE DIVISION OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS; AND TO ABOLISH THE DATA AND TRANSPARENCY PANEL.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 25-4-126(b)(7), concerning the duties of the Chief Data Officer of the Division of Information Systems, is repealed.

~~(7) Direct and oversee the Data and Transparency Panel.~~

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 25-4-127 is repealed.

~~25-4-127. Data and Transparency Panel Creation Duties.~~

~~(a) The Data and Transparency Panel is created within the Department of Transformation and Shared Services.~~

~~(b) The panel shall consist of the following members:~~

~~(1)(A) Three (3) appointees from the private sector who shall be appointed as follows:~~

~~(i) One (1) appointee shall be appointed by the Governor;~~

~~(ii) One (1) appointee shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and~~

~~(iii) One (1) appointee shall be appointed by the~~



~~President Pro Tempore of the Senate.~~

~~(B) Each appointee shall serve at the pleasure of his or her appointer.~~

~~(C) The appointer of an appointee who vacates his or her position on the panel shall fill the vacancy as required under this section;~~

~~(2) The Attorney General or his or her designee;~~

~~(3) The secretaries, directors, or their designees, of the following entities:~~

~~(A) The Department of Public Safety;~~

~~(B) The Department of Inspector General;~~

~~(C) The Department of Education;~~

~~(D) The Department of Energy and Environment;~~

~~(E) The Department of Corrections;~~

~~(F) The Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism;~~

~~(G) The Department of Finance and Administration;~~

~~(H) The Department of Health;~~

~~(I) The Department of Agriculture;~~

~~(J) The Department of Human Services;~~

~~(K) The Department of Transformation and Shared Services;~~

~~(L) The Department of Labor and Licensing;~~

~~(M) The Department of Veteran Affairs;~~

~~(N) The Department of the Military; and~~

~~(O) The Department of Commerce;~~

~~(4)(A) The Chief Data Officer of the Division of Information Systems.~~

~~(B) The Chief Data Officer of the Division of Information Systems shall be the Chair of the Data and Transparency Panel.~~

~~(C) The members of the panel shall select a vice chair annually;~~

~~(5) The Chief Privacy Officer of the Division of Information Systems; and~~

~~(6) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or his or her designee.~~

~~(c) The panel shall:~~

~~(1) Evaluate and identify data to be included in the statewide data warehouse program;~~

~~(2) Determine and recommend procedures necessary for the implementation of a statewide data warehouse program;~~

~~(3) Oversee a statewide data warehouse program implemented in this state;~~

~~(4) Evaluate and identify data that may be provided to the public in accordance with data standards and specifications developed by the Division of Information Systems;~~

~~(5) Engage other divisions, boards, and commissions by soliciting input on information sharing opportunities;~~

~~(6) Provide annual reports to the Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology;~~

~~(7) Develop a unified longitudinal system that links existing siloed agency information for education and workforce outcomes to continuously conduct a business systems assessment to:~~

~~(A) Help the leaders of this state and service providers develop an improved understanding of individual outcomes resulting from education and workforce pipelines in Arkansas;~~

~~(B) Identify opportunities for improvement by using real-time information; and~~

~~(C) Continuously align programs and resources to the evolving economy of this state; and~~

~~(8)(A) Develop a shared services data hub for statewide data sharing in order to:~~

~~(i) Drive innovation and facilitate efficiency across state agencies;~~

~~(ii) Improve the delivery of services; and~~

~~(iii) Better serve the residents of this state.~~

~~(B) In implementation of the shared services data hub under subdivision (8)(A) of this section, the Division of Information Systems shall:~~

~~(i)(a) Establish and maintain a program to collect, analyze, and exchange government information in carrying out the powers and duties of the executive state agency sharing the data.~~

~~(b) In carrying out the program under subdivision (8)(B)(i)(a) of this section, the Division of Information Systems may obtain government information from each executive state agency;~~

~~(ii) Establish and maintain a program to make government information available to executive state agencies, political subdivisions, educational institutions, researchers, nongovernmental organizations, and the general public, subject to the following:~~

~~(a)(1) A program established and maintained under this section shall include a policy governing access to government information held by the Division of Information Systems under this chapter.~~

~~(2) Government information may be made available only if doing so does not violate state or federal confidentiality and disclosure laws;~~

~~(b)(1) The Division of Information Systems is considered to be an agent of the executive state agency sharing government information and is an authorized receiver of government information under the statutory or administrative law that governs the government information unless:~~

~~(A) The Division of Information Systems or executive state agencies are specifically excluded as an authorized receiver; or~~

~~(B) An authorized receiver of government information is specifically enumerated under the statutory or administrative law governing the government information without stated exceptions or qualifications.~~

~~(2) Interagency data sharing under this section does not constitute a disclosure or release under any statutory or administrative law that governs the government information;~~

~~(c)(1) A program established and maintained under this section shall prescribe a form to be used to memorialize the sharing of data under this section.~~

~~(2) The form required under subdivision (8)(B)(ii)(c)(1) of this section shall be signed by the administrative head of the executive state agency so long as the form does not require the sharing of state agency information that would be in contradiction of existing state or federal law; and~~

~~(d)(1) A data sharing form completed and signed under subdivision (8)(B)(ii)(c)(1) of this section constitutes the agreement required by any statutory or administrative law that governs the~~

~~data.~~

~~(2) Additional documentation is not required to share data under this section;~~

~~(iii) Establish privacy and quality policy for government information that complies with all applicable Arkansas and federal laws, rules, and policies;~~

~~(iv) According to standards developed by the state security office, establish and maintain a program to ensure the security of government information under this section; and~~

~~(v) Establish a public portal that will provide Arkansans with easy access to data.~~

~~(d)(1) The panel shall meet at least quarterly in each calendar year at a time and place determined by the panel.~~

~~(2) Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the chair.~~

~~(e) Nine (9) members of the panel shall constitute a quorum to transact the business of the panel.~~

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 25-4-128 is repealed.

~~25-4-128. Data and Transparency Panel—Records—Confidentiality.~~

~~(a) All records, reports, and other information obtained by the Data and Transparency Panel shall be confidential unless approved for publication in accordance with data standards and specifications developed by the Division of Information Systems.~~

~~(b) A person, agency, or entity that furnishes confidential information in good faith under this chapter is immune from criminal or civil liability arising out of the release of the confidential information.~~

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Title 25, Chapter 4, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

25-4-130. Statewide data integration and exchange.

(a) The Division of Information Systems shall:

(1) Oversee a statewide data program;

(2) Evaluate and identify data that may be provided to the public in accordance with data standards and specifications developed by the Division of Information Systems;

(3) Engage other departments, divisions, boards, and commissions soliciting input on information sharing opportunities;

(4) Obtain state information from each cabinet-level department and be considered an agent, authorized representative, and authorized receiver of the cabinet-level department;

(5) Maintain and enhance a statewide longitudinal data system that links existing state information to:

(A) Facilitate an improved understanding of individual outcomes;

(B) Identify opportunities for improvement; and

(C) Continuously align programs and resources;

(6) Maintain and enhance a statewide shared services data hub for data sharing to link state information;

(7) Establish and maintain policies and procedures for access to state information;

(8) Establish privacy and quality policies for the protection of state information in compliance with state and federal laws;

(9) Establish and maintain policies to ensure the security of state information in accordance with standards developed by the State Cybersecurity Office; and

(10) Establish and maintain a public portal that will provide a resident with easy access to data.

(b)(1) The Division of Information Systems shall prescribe a standardized process to be used for the sharing of data.

(2) Interagency data sharing under this section is not a disclosure or release under any statutory or administrative law that governs the state information.

(c) State information may be made available only if doing so does not violate:

(1) State confidentiality and disclosure laws as they existed on January 1, 2025; or

(2) Federal confidentiality and disclosure laws as they existed on January 1, 2025.

(d)(1) Each cabinet-level department shall assign a data steward to serve as the primary contact between the Division of Information Systems and the cabinet-level department.

(2) A data steward under subdivision (d)(1) of this section shall be responsible for, including without limitation:

(A) Implementing data governance policies in the cabinet-level department;

(B) Cataloging data;

(C) Approving data usage; and

(D) Coordinating data integration and exchange.

(3) A data steward under this subsection (d) may be assigned at a department, division, or program level, depending on the level that is most practical for the cabinet-level department.

(e) The Division of Information Systems shall provide an annual written report to the Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology.

*/s/S. Meeks*