

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: H3/18/25

## A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1711

By: Representative Unger  
By: Senators F. Love, *Hester*

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING MUNICIPAL PORT AUTHORITIES; TO AMEND THE POWERS OF A MUNICIPAL PORT AUTHORITY; TO ALLOW A MUNICIPAL PORT AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH A POLICE FORCE; TO ESTABLISH THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF A MUNICIPAL PORT AUTHORITY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO ALLOW A MUNICIPAL PORT AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH A POLICE FORCE; AND TO ESTABLISH THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF A MUNICIPAL PORT AUTHORITY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 14, Chapter 186, Subchapter 2, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

14-186-216. Municipal port authority police force – Establishment – Powers and duties.

(a)(1) A municipal port authority may:

(A) Establish and organize a municipal port authority police force;

(B) Appoint one (1) or more persons as a municipal port authority law enforcement officer to aid and supplement the law enforcement agencies of this state in the protection of the persons, property, and facilities of the municipal port authority; and



(C) Apply for a grant applicable to law enforcement in order to support the funding of a municipal port authority police force.

(2) A municipal port authority that establishes and organizes a municipal port authority police force under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section may fund the municipal port authority police force using:

(A) Fees collected by the municipal port authority from the operations of the municipal port authority authorized under this subchapter; and

(B) Funds received from grants.

(3) A municipal port authority police force established and organized under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section shall exercise concurrent jurisdiction with law enforcement of the municipality and of the county in which the municipal port authority facilities are located.

(b)(1) A municipal port authority law enforcement officer appointed under this section shall:

(A) Be a certified law enforcement officer under § 12-9-101 et seq; and

(B) Except to the extent limited by the municipal port authority:

(i) Protect the property of the municipal port authority;

(ii) Preserve and maintain proper order and decorum on the property of the municipal port authority;

(iii) Prevent unlawful assemblies and disorderly conduct on the property of the municipal port authority;

(iv) Cooperate with law enforcement agencies and officers having jurisdiction where the property and facilities of the municipal port authority are located; and

(v) Exclude and eject persons from and prevent trespass upon the property, facilities, and waterways under the control of the municipal port authority.

(2) A municipal port authority law enforcement officer appointed under this section may:

(A) Arrest a person under § 16-81-106(b) and (c), whether on or off the property of the municipal port authority, for the violation of a law on the property of the municipal port authority;

(B) Carry weapons for the reasonable purposes of carrying out the duties of a municipal port authority law enforcement officer;

(C) Regulate the operation and parking of motor vehicles on the grounds of the municipal port authority and other grounds under the control of the municipal port authority;

(D) Regulate the operation and docking of watercraft on the waterways under the control of the municipal port authority and on all waterways adjoining and traversing the waterways and property of the municipal port authority; and

(E) Patrol:

(i) The industrial facilities of the municipal port authority;

(ii) The portion of roads adjacent to the perimeter of the grounds of the municipal port authority;

(iii) The portion of a shore or bank of a waterway that is adjacent to the grounds of the municipal port authority; and

(iv) Navigable waterways adjacent to the facilities of the municipal port authority in a distance not to exceed five (5) miles upriver or downriver from the facilities of the municipal port authority.

(c) A municipal port authority may promulgate rules providing for the operation and organization of a municipal port authority police force.

/s/Unger