

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

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1896

By: Representative B. McKenzie

By: Senator J. Dismang

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE JUNK FEE ELIMINATING ACT OF 2025; ABOLISH THE INFORMATION NETWORK OF ARKANSAS; TO TRANSFER ANY REMAINING DUTIES OF THE INFORMATION NETWORK OF ARKANSAS TO THE DIVISION OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE JUNK FEE ELIMINATING ACT OF 2025; TO ABOLISH THE INFORMATION NETWORK OF ARKANSAS; AND TO TRANSFER ANY REMAINING DUTIES OF THE INFORMATION NETWORK OF ARKANSAS TO THE DIVISION OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Junk Fee Eliminating Act of 2025".

SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Abolition of Information Network of Arkansas.

(a) The Information Network of Arkansas is abolished, and its authority, duties, function, records, contracts, personnel, property, and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds, including the functions of budgeting or purchasing are transferred to the Division of Information Systems.



(b) The Information Network of Arkansas's statutory powers, duties, and functions, including the functions of budgeting or purchasing, records, contracts, personnel, property, and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds are transferred to the Division of Information Systems.

(c)(1) The abolishment of the Information Network of Arkansas does not affect the orders, rules, directives, registration, licensing, or standards made or promulgated by the Information Network of Arkansas before the effective date of this act.

(2) The orders, rules, directives, registration, licensing, or standards of the Information Network of Arkansas shall continue to be in effect until they are amended or repealed under authority given by law.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 12-12-1507 is amended to read as follows:
12-12-1507. Administration.

(a)(1) Release of criminal history information under this subchapter shall be made only by the Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police and the Arkansas Crime Information Center as authorized by law.

(2) The Division of Arkansas State Police and the center may adopt rules consistent with the provisions and intent of this subchapter.

(b) ~~The division Division of Arkansas State Police~~ and the center may contract with the ~~Information Network of Arkansas under the Information Network of Arkansas Act, § 25-27-101 et seq.,~~ Division of Information Systems or any other qualified third-party vendor in the establishment of the gateway or means of electronically processing transactions under this subchapter.

(c)(1) ~~The division Division of Arkansas State Police~~ shall not process a request for a Federal Bureau of Investigation background check unless a corresponding state background check through the Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police has also been properly requested pursuant to this subchapter.

(2) The requirements of subdivision (c)(1) of this section may be waived upon written authorization of the Director of the Division of Arkansas State Police.

(d) The Division of Arkansas State Police automated fingerprint identification system may access and use the National Fingerprint File and Interstate Identification Index as provided by the Federal Bureau of

Investigation when the Arkansas Code authorizes a fingerprint-based Federal Bureau of Investigation check for a noncriminal justice purpose and a positive identification based on fingerprints is made.

(e) A background check request for a noncriminal justice purpose that must be completed under state or federal law through the ~~division~~ Division of Arkansas State Police shall be submitted to the ~~division~~ Division of Arkansas State Police by electronic means through the Online Criminal Background Check System.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 16-92-118(a)-(d) are amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) Notwithstanding § 16-13-709, the quorum court of each county of this state may delegate the responsibility for the electronic collection of fines assessed in a circuit court of this state within that county to the Administrative Office of the Courts ~~or the Information Network of Arkansas~~.

(2) Fines collected in each circuit court by the Administrative Office of the Courts ~~or the Information Network of Arkansas~~ shall be remitted by the fifth working day of the following month to the county official, agency, or department designated under § 16-13-709 as primarily responsible for the collection of fines assessed in that circuit court to be disbursed to the appropriate county fund, state entity, or state agency as provided by law.

(b)(1) Notwithstanding § 16-13-709, the governing body or, if applicable and by mutual agreement, each governing body of a political subdivision that contributes to the expenses of a district court or the governing body of the city in which a city court is located may designate the responsibility for the electronic collection of fines assessed in that district court or that city court to the Administrative Office of the Courts ~~or the Information Network of Arkansas~~.

(2) Fines collected in each district court or each department of district court by the Administrative Office of the Courts ~~or the Information Network of Arkansas~~ shall be remitted by the fifth working day of the following month to the county or city official, agency, or department designated under § 16-13-709 as primarily responsible for the collection of fines assessed in that district court to be disbursed under § 16-17-707.

(c) Fines collected in each city court by the Administrative Office of

the Courts ~~or the Information Network of Arkansas~~ shall be disbursed by the fifth working day of the following month to the city official, agency, or department designated under § 16-13-709 as primarily responsible for the collection of fines assessed in that city court to be disbursed to the general fund or other city fund, state agency, or state entity as provided by law.

(d)(1) The Administrative Office of the Courts ~~or the Information Network of Arkansas~~ shall be allowed to charge a transaction fee for any electronic payment of a court-ordered fine by an approved credit card or debit card.

(2) The fee provided for in subdivision (d)(1) of this section collected by the Administrative Office of the Courts shall be deposited by the fifth day of each month into the Judicial Fine Collection Enhancement Fund established by § 16-13-712.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 19-5-1074 is repealed.

~~19-5-1074. Information Network of Arkansas Fund.~~

~~All moneys received by the Information Network of Arkansas from gifts, donations, grants, or any other sources available by law shall be deposited into the State Treasury and credited to the Information Network of Arkansas Fund, which is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, the Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State until expended or otherwise exhausted pursuant to the Information Network of Arkansas Act, § 25-27-101 et seq.~~

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 25-27-101 is repealed.

~~25-27-101. Title.~~

~~This chapter may be cited as and shall be known as the "Information Network of Arkansas Act".~~

SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 25-27-102 is amended to read as follows:

25-27-102. Definitions

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Agency" means any agency, department, office, board, commission, ~~public instrumentality,~~ political subdivision, or any of the foregoing entities acting on behalf of the State of Arkansas which store,

gather, or generate public information;

(2) "Gateway system" means any centralized electronic information system by which public information shall be disseminated or collected via the internet, ~~dial-in modem~~, continuous link, or other electronic medium; and

~~(3) "I.N.A." means the Information Network of Arkansas, or, if the Information Network of Arkansas shall be abolished, the board, body, or commission succeeding to the principal functions thereof or to whom the powers given by this chapter to the Information Network of Arkansas shall be given by law;~~

~~(4) "Network manager" means the entity or person designated by contractual obligation to establish, develop, operate, maintain, and expand the gateway system on behalf of the Information Network of Arkansas;~~

~~(5)~~(3) "Public information" means any information stored, gathered, or generated in electronic ~~or magnetic~~ form by an agency, its agencies, or instrumentalities, which is included within the information deemed to be public pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act of 1967, § 25-19-101 et seq., and other provisions of the Arkansas Code providing for release of information to the public at large to specified groups or recipients; and

~~(6) "User association" means an association:~~

~~(A) Whose membership is identifiable by regular payment of association dues and regularly maintained membership lists;~~

~~(B) Which is registered with the Secretary of State as an Arkansas corporation;~~

~~(C) Which exists for the purpose of advancing the common occupation or profession of its membership; and~~

~~(D) Which, after the appointment of the initial Board of the Information Network of Arkansas, regularly promotes and encourages the subscription of its members to the gateway system developed by the Information Network of Arkansas.~~

SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 25-27-103 is repealed.

~~25-27-103. Board.~~

~~(a) There is created the Information Network of Arkansas, a public instrumentality carrying out an essential government function, which shall be~~

~~governed by a Board of the Information Network of Arkansas consisting of twelve (12) voting members, as follows:~~

~~(1) The Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission or his or her designee;~~

~~(2) The Secretary of State, or the Secretary of State's designee;~~

~~(3) The Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration, or his or her designee;~~

~~(4) Two (2) members, or their designees, who are chief executive officers of agencies of the executive branch other than the Department of Finance and Administration and the Division of Information Systems, shall be appointed by the Governor;~~

~~(5)(A)(i)(a) Four (4) members from user associations initially selected by the Governor shall be appointed by the Governor after consulting each user association.~~

~~(b) Members appointed by the Governor under subdivision (a)(5)(A)(i)(a) of this section shall be subject to confirmation by the Senate.~~

~~(ii) No two (2) members appointed pursuant to this subdivision (a)(5) shall be members of the same user association.~~

~~(B) Such members shall serve staggered three year terms;~~

~~(6)(A) One (1) member who is a public library director appointed by the Governor after consulting the President of the Arkansas Library Association and subject to confirmation by the Senate.~~

~~(B) The member shall serve a three year term;~~

~~(7)(A) One (1) member appointed by the Governor after consulting the Arkansas Bar Association and subject to confirmation by the Senate.~~

~~(B) The member shall serve a three year term; and~~

~~(8) The Director of the Division of Information Systems, or the Director of the Division of Information Systems' designee.~~

~~(b)(1) The board shall annually elect one (1) member from the board as chair of the board.~~

~~(2) The board may also elect a vice chair and a secretary.~~

~~(c)(1) Six (6) members of the board shall constitute a quorum, and the affirmative vote of six (6) members shall be necessary for any action taken by the board.~~

~~(2) No vacancy in the membership of the board shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise all rights and perform all the duties of the board.~~

~~(d) The board shall meet at least semiannually.~~

~~(e) Members of the board shall serve without compensation but shall be eligible to receive reimbursement for mileage and reimbursement for expenses in accordance with § 25-16-902.~~

SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 25-27-104 is amended to read as follows:
25-27-104. Duties.

(a) The ~~Information Network of Arkansas~~ Division of Information Systems shall have the following duties:

(1) To develop and implement an electronic gateway system to provide electronic access to members of the public to public information and to develop, implement, and promote the use of electronic commerce and digital signature applications within the state ~~in cooperation with the Division of Information Systems;~~

~~(2) To provide appropriate oversight of the network manager;~~

~~(3)(A) To establish charges for the services provided by the division Information Network of Arkansas.~~

~~(B) The Information Network of Arkansas shall on a quarterly basis submit a report of any change in charges for services to the:~~

~~(i) Legislative Council; and~~

~~(ii) Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology; and~~

~~(4) To explore ways of expanding the amount and kind of public information provided, increasing the utility and form of the public information provided, and implement such changes as required to be consistent with the provisions of this chapter;~~

~~(5)(3) To explore ways of improving citizen and business access to public information and, where appropriate, implementing such changes;~~

~~(6) To explore ways of expanding a gateway system and its services to citizens and businesses by providing add-on services to the public, such as access to other for profit information databases, electronic mail, and calendaring;~~

~~(7) To serve in an advisory capacity to the Department of~~

~~Finance and Administration, the division, and other state agencies regarding the dissemination to and collection of state data for the citizens and businesses of Arkansas;~~

~~(8) To seek advice from the general public, its subscribers, professional associations, academic groups, and institutions and individuals with knowledge or interest in computer networking, electronic mail, public information access, gateway services, add-on services, and electronic filing of information; and~~

~~(9) To accept gifts, donations, and grants for the support of a gateway system in Arkansas.~~

~~(b)(1) All state agencies shall participate with the Information Network of Arkansas division in providing assistance as may be requested for the achievement of its purpose of implementing this section.~~

~~(2) Services and information to be provided by any agency shall be specified pursuant to a contract between the Information Network of Arkansas and such an agency.~~

~~(3) Agencies may contract to recover from the Information Network of Arkansas costs incurred by providing such assistance to the Information Network of Arkansas.~~

~~(4) The Information Network of Arkansas shall cooperate with the division to fulfill the purposes of the Arkansas Information Systems Act of 1997, § 25-4-101 et seq.~~

SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 25-27-105 is repealed.

~~25-27-105. Network manager.~~

~~(a)(1) The Information Network of Arkansas shall procure a network manager after developing, in consultation with the Division of Information Systems, criteria and specifications for such a network manager and his or her duties.~~

~~(2)(A) The Information Network of Arkansas may negotiate and enter into a contract with the network manager.~~

~~(B) The contract shall specify the duties and responsibilities of the network manager and shall also include any other terms necessary to the agreement.~~

~~(b) The network manager shall:~~

~~(1) Direct and supervise the day to day operations and expansion~~

~~of the gateway system, including the initial phase of operations necessary to make the gateway system operational;~~

~~(2) Attend meetings of the Information Network of Arkansas;~~

~~(3) Keep a record of all gateway, network, and related operations of the Information Network of Arkansas. The records shall be the property of the Information Network of Arkansas;~~

~~(4) Maintain and be a custodian of all financial and operational records, documents, and papers filed with the Information Network of Arkansas;~~

~~(5) Update and revise on a yearly basis the business plan of the Information Network of Arkansas in consultation with and under the direction of the Information Network of Arkansas;~~

~~(6) Submit to the Information Network of Arkansas quarterly financial reports, an annual audit, an annual report, and any other information requested by the Board of the Information Network of Arkansas; and~~

~~(7) Perform other such activities or services as requested or authorized by the Information Network of Arkansas consistent with the provisions of this chapter.~~

~~(c) The division may provide to the Information Network of Arkansas such staff and other assistance under contract.~~

SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 27-50-906(a)(2)(B), concerning fees charged under a central driver's records file, is repealed.

~~(B) The Information Network of Arkansas may charge an additional fee under the Information Network of Arkansas Act, § 25-27-101 et seq., for the service of transmitting this information electronically.~~

SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 27-50-906(c), concerning fees charged under a central driver's records file, is amended to read as follows:

(c)(1)(A) The fee for an insured's or applicant's driver confirmation record shall be ten cents (10¢) per record.

~~(B)(2) This~~ The fee under subdivision (c)(1) of this section shall be deposited into the fund as a direct revenue to be used by the division.

~~(2) The network may charge an additional fee under the~~

~~Information Network of Arkansas Act, § 25-27-101 et seq., for the service of transmitting this information electronically.~~

SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 27-50-912(f)(4), concerning fees for the driver monitoring program report, is repealed.

~~(4) The Information Network of Arkansas may charge insurers or their agents an additional fee under the Information Network of Arkansas Act, § 25-27-101 et seq., for transmitting a driver monitoring report electronically.~~

SECTION 14. DO NOT CODIFY. EFFECTIVE DATE. This act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.