

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

SENATE BILL 579

By: Senator M. McKee
By: Representative M. Brown

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES; TO PROHIBIT A PUBLIC EMPLOYER FROM DEDUCTING LABOR ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP DUES FROM THE COMPENSATION OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES; AND TO PROHIBIT A PUBLIC EMPLOYER FROM DEDUCTING LABOR ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP DUES FROM THE COMPENSATION OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 21, Chapter 1, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

21-1-107. Deduction of Labor Organization Membership Fees Prohibited – Definitions.

(a) As used in this subchapter:

(1)(A) "Labor organization" means an organization in which public employees may participate that exists for the purpose of dealing with public employers concerning grievances, labor disputes, wages, rates of pay, hours of employment, or conditions of work.

(B) "Labor organization" includes without limitation a:

(i) Labor union exempt from taxation under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(5) as it existed on January 1, 2025; or



(ii) A professional employee association exempt from taxation under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(6) as it existed on January 1, 2025;

(2) "Public employee" means a person who performs a full-time or part-time service for wages, salary, or other remuneration for a public employer;

(3) "Public employer" means:

(A) An agency, department, board, commission, division, office, bureau, council, authority, or other instrumentality of the State of Arkansas, including the offices of the various Arkansas elected constitutional officers and the General Assembly and its agencies, bureaus, and divisions;

(B) A state-supported college, university, technical college, community college, or other institution of higher education or a department, division, or agency of a state institution of higher education;

(C) The Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, the Administrative Office of the Courts, circuit courts, district courts, and prosecuting attorneys' offices; and

(D) An office, department, commission, council, agency, board, bureau, committee, corporation, or other instrumentality of a county government or a municipality, a county subordinate service district, a municipally owned utility, or a regional or joint governing body of one (1) or more counties or municipalities; and

(4)(A) "Public safety employee" means a public employee who is:

(i) Engaged in official duty with the power to arrest for a criminal violation; or

(ii) Employed for the primary purpose of:

(a) Enforcing the incarceration or supervised release of a criminal offender;

(b) Preventing or suppressing fire;

(c) Providing emergency medical response, treatment, or transportation;

(d) Defending the state; or

(e) Performing other emergency services necessary for the protection of life or property.

(B) "Public safety employee" includes a public employee employed to support or direct the functions of public safety employees.

(b)(1) Except as provided under subdivision (b)(2) of this section, a public employer shall not deduct from the compensation of a public employee a due, fee, or contribution to a labor organization.

(2) Subdivision (b)(1) of this section does not apply to a public safety employee.