

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 579

5 By: Senator M. McKee  
6 By: Representative M. Brown  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING PUBLIC OFFICERS  
10 AND EMPLOYEES; TO PROHIBIT A PUBLIC EMPLOYER FROM  
11 DEDUCTING LABOR ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP DUES FROM THE  
12 COMPENSATION OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE; AND FOR OTHER  
13 PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

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17 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING PUBLIC  
18 OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES; AND TO PROHIBIT  
19 A PUBLIC EMPLOYER FROM DEDUCTING LABOR  
20 ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP DUES FROM THE  
21 COMPENSATION OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE.  
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 21, Chapter 1, Subchapter 1, is amended  
26 to add an additional section to read as follows:

27 21-1-107. Deduction of Labor Organization Membership Fees Prohibited –  
28 Definitions.

29 (a) As used in this subchapter:

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

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

35 (i) Labor union exempt from taxation under 26 U.S.C.  
36 § 501(c)(5) as it existed on January 1, 2025; or



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

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

6                   (3) "Public employer" means:

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

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

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

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

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

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

26                   (ii) Employed for the primary purpose of:

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

29                   (b) Preventing or suppressing fire;

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

32                   (d) Defending the state; or

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

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

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

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

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