

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: H4/3/25

95th General Assembly

## A Bill

Regular Session, 2025

SENATE BILL 374

By: Senator B. Davis

By: Representative Wing

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE CIVIL SERVICE  
SYSTEM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE CIVIL  
SERVICE SYSTEM.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 14-51-301(b)(3), concerning the rules and regulations governing examinations for fire departments and police departments, is amended to read as follows:

(3)(A) *Public advertisement of all examinations by publication of notice in some newspaper having a bona fide circulation in the city and by posting of notice at the city hall at least ten (10) days before the date of the examinations.*

(B)(i) ~~The examinations may be held on the first Monday in April or the first Monday in October, or both, and more often if necessary under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the board~~ shall be held as needed by the chief of the fire department or police department who shall determine the:

(a) Time of the exams;

(b) Date of the exams; and

(c) Frequency of the exams.

(ii) The commission shall have only an indirect role in an examination under subdivision (b)(3)(B)(i) of this section, which excludes the commission from:



1 (a) Engaging in interviews; or

2 (b) Proctoring exams.

3 (iii) The commission may observe an examination  
4 under subdivision (b)(3)(B)(i) of this section so long as the commission does  
5 not interfere with the examination schedule set by the chief of the fire  
6 department or police department;

7  
8 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 14-51-301(b)(4)(A)(i)(b), concerning the  
9 rules and regulations related to the creation of an eligibles list for fire  
10 departments and police departments, is amended to read as follows:

11 (b) If the board creates an eligibles list on  
12 an as-needed basis and a vacancy is created as a result of death,  
13 termination, resignation, demotion, retirement, or promotion, the chief of  
14 the fire department or police department shall notify the ~~board~~ commission  
15 within five (5) business days, and the board shall schedule of the scheduling  
16 of an examination to establish an eligibles list from which an appointment or  
17 promotion shall be made unless the position is determined to be eliminated or  
18 not funded by the governing body of the city.

19  
20 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 14-51-301(b)(7)(A), concerning the rules  
21 and regulations governing fire departments and police departments, is amended  
22 to read as follows:

23 (7)(A) A period of probation not to exceed eighteen (18) months  
24 for potential fire department appointees and at least one (1) year but no  
25 longer than two (2) years for potential law enforcement appointees before any  
26 appointment is complete and ~~six (6)~~ twelve (12) months before any promotion  
27 is complete.

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29 /s/B. Davis

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32 **APPROVED: 4/17/25**