Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law. Act 837 of the Regular Session

| 1 | State of Arkansas | A Bill | |
|--------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2 | 95th General Assembly | A DIII | HOUSE BILL 1898 |
| 3 | Regular Session, 2025 | | HOUSE BILL 1898 |
| 4 5 | By: Representative Painter | | |
| 6 | By: Senator Crowell | | |
| 7 | By. Senator Crowen | | |
| 8 | | For An Act To Be Entitled | |
| 9 | AN ACT CONC | ERNING THE DIVISIONS IN THE DEPARTME | ENT OF |
| 10 | | ADMINISTRATION; TO COMBINE THE EXIS | |
| 11 | REGULATORY A | AND ENFORCEMENT FUNCTIONS RELATED TO |) |
| 12 | TOBACCO, ME | DICAL MARIJUANA, AND ALCOHOLIC BEVER | RAGE |
| 13 | CONTROL IN | THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND | |
| 14 | ADMINISTRAT | ION; TO CREATE THE REGULATORY DIVISI | ON AND |
| 15 | THE REGULAT | ORY ENFORCEMENT DIVISION WITHIN THE | |
| 16 | DEPARTMENT (| OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION; TO CO | OMBINE |
| 17 | THE ALCOHOL | IC BEVERAGE CONTROL ENFORCEMENT DIVI | SION |
| 18 | AND THE ARK | ANSAS TOBACCO CONTROL ENFORCEMENT DI | VISION |
| 19 | INTO THE RE | GULATORY ENFORCEMENT DIVISION; TO AL | LLOW |
| 20 | FOR PERSONN | EL OF THE REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT DIV | ISION |
| 21 | OF THE DEPA | RTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION | N TO BE |
| 22 | DESIGNATED A | AS AGENTS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHO | ORITY; |
| 23 | AND FOR OTH | ER PURPOSES. | |
| 24 | | | |
| 25 | | | |
| 26 | | Subtitle | |
| 27 | TO CRE | EATE THE REGULATORY DIVISION AND | |
| 28 | THE RE | EGULATORY ENFORCEMENT DIVISION IN | |
| 29 | THE DE | EPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND | |
| 30 | ADMINI | STRATION; AND TO ALLOW PERSONNEL | |
| 31 | OF THE | E REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT DIVISION | |
| 32 | TO BE | DESIGNATED AS AGENTS. | |
| 33 | | | |
| 34 | BE IT ENACTED BY THE GE | NERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKAN | ISAS: |
| 35 | | | |
| 36 | SECTION 1. Arkan | sas Code Title 25, Chapter 8, Subcha | apter l, is amended |

| 1 | to add additional sections to read as follows: | |
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| 2 | 25-8-111. Regulatory Division of the Department of Finance and | |
| 3 | Administration - Regulatory Administrator. | |
| 4 | (a) The Regulatory Division is created within the Department of | |
| 5 | Finance and Administration. | |
| 6 | (b) The Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration | |
| 7 | shall appoint a Regulatory Administrator to oversee the Regulatory Division | |
| 8 | of the Department of Finance and Administration. | |
| 9 | (c) The administrator shall: | |
| 10 | (1) Serve at the pleasure of the secretary; | |
| 11 | (2) Report to the secretary; and | |
| 12 | (3) Maintain oversight of: | |
| 13 | (A) The Alcoholic Beverage Control Division; | |
| 14 | (B) Arkansas Tobacco Control; | |
| 15 | (C) The Arkansas Racing Commission; and | |
| 16 | (D) The Regulatory Enforcement Division of the Department | |
| 17 | of Finance and Administration. | |
| 18 | | |
| 19 | 25-8-112. Regulatory Enforcement Division. | |
| 20 | (a) The Regulatory Enforcement Division is created within the | |
| 21 | Regulatory Division of the Department of Finance and Administration. | |
| 22 | (b) The Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration | |
| 23 | shall appoint an Enforcement Director to oversee the Regulatory Enforcement | |
| 24 | Division of the Department of Finance and Administration. | |
| 25 | (c) The director shall: | |
| 26 | (1) Serve at the pleasure of the secretary; and | |
| 27 | (2) Report to the Regulatory Administrator of the Regulatory | |
| 28 | Division of the Department of Finance and Administration. | |
| 29 | (d) The Regulatory Enforcement Division of the Department of Finance | |
| 30 | and Administration is designated as a law enforcement agency. | |
| 31 | (e) The director shall assign personnel as agents of the Regulatory | |
| 32 | Enforcement Division of the Department of Finance and Administration to | |
| 33 | conduct investigations related to the violation of: | |
| 34 | (1) State law governing: | |
| 35 | (A) Tobacco; | |
| 36 | (B) Alcohol; | |

| 1 | (C) Medical marijuana; or | | |
|----|---|--|--|
| 2 | (D) Gambling or the promotion of gambling; and | | |
| 3 | (2) Rules promulgated by the: | | |
| 4 | (A) Alcoholic Beverage Control Board; | | |
| 5 | (B) Medical Marijuana Commission; or | | |
| 6 | (C) Tobacco Control Board. | | |
| 7 | (f) Personnel assigned as agents of the Regulatory Enforcement | | |
| 8 | Division of the Department of Finance and Administration under subsection (e) | | |
| 9 | of this section shall: | | |
| 10 | (1) Present findings to the relevant board regarding the | | |
| 11 | investigation of a violation of rules promulgated by the entities listed in | | |
| 12 | subdivision (e)(2) of this section; | | |
| 13 | (2) Be considered full-time law enforcement officers by the | | |
| 14 | Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training under § 12-9- | | |
| 15 | 101 et seq.; and | | |
| 16 | (3) Have statewide law enforcement authority. | | |
| 17 | (g) The director may refer any investigation authorized under this | | |
| 18 | section to a prosecuting attorney or a law enforcement agency. | | |
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| 21 | APPROVED: 4/17/25 | | |
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