



**State of Arkansas
Department of Finance and Administration
Fiscal Impact Statement**

Bill: SB498

Bill Subtitle: TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING DISCLOSURE OF DRIVER AND VEHICLE RECORDS AND TO PROTECT DRIVER AND VEHICLE RECORDS FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.

Sponsors:

Sen. Petty and Rep. N. Burkes

Basic Change:

SB498 updates state law concerning the release of motor vehicle and driver records to correspond more closely to federal standards:

- There is a current conflict between state and federal law concerning protection for motor vehicle records. Arkansas declares them public records while the federal government requires substantial protections. SB498 resolves that conflict by providing protection for motor vehicle records under Arkansas law.
- Current Arkansas law restricts courts and law enforcement officers to receiving driver records for the purpose of enforcing traffic laws. SB498 allows more access to those records for courts and law enforcement who need those records for other crimes.
- SB498 creates a single standard for releasing motor vehicle and driver records rather than having multiple standards in different code sections.
- Current Arkansas law prohibits the disclosure of digital driver's license photos other than with the approval of the driver. SB498 allows the disclosure of digital driver's license photos to courts and law enforcement agencies.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Taxpayer Impact:

SB498 will update Arkansas law to be consistent with federal requirements for the authorized release of confidential driver and motor vehicle information.

Resources Required:

None.

Time Required:

None.

Procedural Changes:

Updates will be required to the Office of Motor Vehicle (OMV) manual and the Department of Finance and Administration website. Training and review sessions will be conducted for State Revenue Office, Office of Driver Services, and Office of Motor Vehicle employees and staff.



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Other Comments:

None.

Legal Analysis:

None.