

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2025-057

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H3/18/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1711

By: Representative Unger
By: Senators F. Love, *Hester*

Filed with: House Committee on City, County, and Local Affairs
pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING MUNICIPAL PORT
AUTHORITIES; TO AMEND THE POWERS OF A MUNICIPAL PORT
AUTHORITY; TO ALLOW A MUNICIPAL PORT AUTHORITY TO
ESTABLISH A POLICE FORCE; TO ESTABLISH THE POWERS AND
DUTIES OF A MUNICIPAL PORT AUTHORITY LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICER; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ALLOW A MUNICIPAL PORT AUTHORITY TO
ESTABLISH A POLICE FORCE; AND TO
ESTABLISH THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF A
MUNICIPAL PORT AUTHORITY LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICER.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 14, Chapter 186, Subchapter 2, is
amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

14-186-216. Municipal port authority police force – Establishment –
Powers and duties.

(a)(1) A municipal port authority may:

(A) Establish and organize a municipal port authority
police force;

(B) Appoint one (1) or more persons as a municipal port

1 authority law enforcement officer to aid and supplement the law enforcement
2 agencies of this state in the protection of the persons, property, and
3 facilities of the municipal port authority; and

4 (C) Apply for a grant applicable to law enforcement in
5 order to support the funding of a municipal port authority police force.

6 (2) A municipal port authority that establishes and organizes a
7 municipal port authority police force under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this
8 section may fund the municipal port authority police force using:

9 (A) Fees collected by the municipal port authority from
10 the operations of the municipal port authority authorized under this
11 subchapter; and

12 (B) Funds received from grants.

13 (3) A municipal port authority police force established and
14 organized under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section shall exercise
15 concurrent jurisdiction with law enforcement of the municipality and of the
16 county in which the municipal port authority facilities are located.

17 (b)(1) A municipal port authority law enforcement officer appointed
18 under this section shall:

19 (A) Be a certified law enforcement officer under § 12-9-
20 101 et seq; and

21 (B) Except to the extent limited by the municipal port
22 authority:

23 (i) Protect the property of the municipal port
24 authority;

25 (ii) Preserve and maintain proper order and decorum
26 on the property of the municipal port authority;

27 (iii) Prevent unlawful assemblies and disorderly
28 conduct on the property of the municipal port authority;

29 (iv) Cooperate with law enforcement agencies and
30 officers having jurisdiction where the property and facilities of the
31 municipal port authority are located; and

32 (v) Exclude and eject persons from and prevent
33 trespass upon the property, facilities, and waterways under the control of
34 the municipal port authority.

35 (2) A municipal port authority law enforcement officer appointed
36 under this section may:

1 (A) Arrest a person under § 16-81-106(b) and (c), whether
2 on or off the property of the municipal port authority, for the violation of
3 a law on the property of the municipal port authority;

4 (B) Carry weapons for the reasonable purposes of carrying
5 out the duties of a municipal port authority law enforcement officer;

6 (C) Regulate the operation and parking of motor vehicles
7 on the grounds of the municipal port authority and other grounds under the
8 control of the municipal port authority;

9 (D) Regulate the operation and docking of watercraft on
10 the waterways under the control of the municipal port authority and on all
11 waterways adjoining and traversing the waterways and property of the
12 municipal port authority; and

13 (E) Patrol:

14 (i) The industrial facilities of the municipal port
15 authority;

16 (ii) The portion of roads adjacent to the perimeter
17 of the grounds of the municipal port authority;

18 (iii) The portion of a shore or bank of a waterway
19 that is adjacent to the grounds of the municipal port authority; and

20 (iv) Navigable waterways adjacent to the facilities
21 of the municipal port authority in a distance not to exceed five (5) miles
22 upriver or downriver from the facilities of the municipal port authority.

23 (c) A municipal port authority may promulgate rules providing for the
24 operation and organization of a municipal port authority police force.

25
26 /s/Unger
27
28

29 Referred requested by the Arkansas House of Representatives

30 Prepared by: ZRC/AMS
31
32