

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

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1648

4  
5 By: Representative S. Meeks  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING MUNICIPAL FIRE  
10 DEPARTMENTS; TO ALLOW A MEMBER OF A MUNICIPAL FIRE  
11 DEPARTMENT BOMB SQUAD TO MAKE ARRESTS UNDER CERTAIN  
12 CIRCUMSTANCES; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER  
13 PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

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17 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING MUNICIPAL  
18 FIRE DEPARTMENTS; TO ALLOW A MEMBER OF A  
19 MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPARTMENT BOMB SQUAD TO  
20 MAKE ARRESTS UNDER CERTAIN  
21 CIRCUMSTANCES; AND TO DECLARE AN  
22 EMERGENCY.  
23

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 14, Chapter 53, is amended to add an  
27 additional section to read as follows:

28 14-53-115. Bomb squad member — Authority to make arrests.

29 (a) A member of a municipal fire department bomb squad meeting the  
30 requirements of this section may make arrests for violations:

31 (1) Of explosives-related incidents or offenses; or

32 (2) When assisting a law enforcement agency in the state.

33 (b) A member of a municipal fire department bomb squad may make  
34 arrests under this section if he or she:

35 (1) Has successfully completed the part-time law enforcement  
36 officer course of study approved by the Arkansas Commission on Law



1 Enforcement Standards and Training and required for specialized police  
 2 personnel; and

3 (2) Is acting in his or her official capacity as a member of a  
 4 municipal fire department bomb squad.

5 (c) A member of a municipal fire department bomb squad who meets the  
 6 requirements under subsection (a) of this section shall make arrests in  
 7 accordance with § 16-81-101 et seq.

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9 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 16-81-106(f), concerning the authority to  
 10 make arrests, is amended to read as follows:

11 (f) As used in this section, “certified law enforcement officer”  
 12 includes ~~a~~:

13 (1) A full-time game warden of the Arkansas State Game and Fish  
 14 Commission so long as the game warden shall not exercise his or her authority  
 15 to the extent that any federal funds would be jeopardized; and

16 (2) A member of a municipal fire department bomb squad who meets  
 17 the requirements under § 14-53-115.

18

19 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
 20 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that a municipal fire department  
 21 bomb squad member does not have the authority to arrest a perpetrator he or  
 22 she may encounter in the course of his or her duty; that providing this  
 23 authority to a municipal fire department bomb squad member is likely to  
 24 prevent an imminent explosives hazard; and that this act is immediately  
 25 necessary because residents of this state may be at risk during an  
 26 explosives-related incident or offense, which threatens the public peace,  
 27 health, and safety of residents of this state. Therefore, an emergency is  
 28 declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the  
 29 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective  
 30 on:

31 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

32 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
 33 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the  
 34 bill; or

35 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
 36 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.