

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1898

5 By: Representative Painter
6 By: Senator Crowell
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DIVISIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
10 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION; TO COMBINE THE EXISTING
11 REGULATORY AND ENFORCEMENT FUNCTIONS RELATED TO
12 TOBACCO, MEDICAL MARIJUANA, AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
13 CONTROL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND
14 ADMINISTRATION; TO CREATE THE REGULATORY DIVISION AND
15 THE REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT DIVISION WITHIN THE
16 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION; TO COMBINE
17 THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL ENFORCEMENT DIVISION
18 AND THE ARKANSAS TOBACCO CONTROL ENFORCEMENT DIVISION
19 INTO THE REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT DIVISION; TO ALLOW
20 FOR PERSONNEL OF THE REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT DIVISION
21 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION TO BE
22 DESIGNATED AS AGENTS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY;
23 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

26 TO CREATE THE REGULATORY DIVISION AND
27 THE REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT DIVISION IN
28 THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND
29 ADMINISTRATION; AND TO ALLOW PERSONNEL
30 OF THE REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT DIVISION
31 TO BE DESIGNATED AS AGENTS.
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34 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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36 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 25, Chapter 8, Subchapter 1, is amended



1 to add additional sections to read as follows:

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.

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 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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