

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

A Bill

SENATE BILL 290

4
5 By: Senator B. Johnson
6 By: Representatives Vaught, Painter

For An Act To Be Entitled

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8
9 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF
10 PERMITS IN WATERSHEDS AND OTHER BODIES OF WATER; AND
11 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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14 TO PROHIBIT A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE
15 OF PERMITS IN WATERSHEDS AND OTHER
16 BODIES OF WATER.

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

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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 15, Chapter 23, Subchapter 1, is
22 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

23 15-23-107. Prohibition on moratorium in watersheds and other bodies of
24 water.

25 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a state
26 agency, including without limitation the Department of Agriculture and the
27 Department of Energy and Environment, shall not institute a moratorium on the
28 issuance of permits in a watershed, including without limitation the Buffalo
29 River Watershed, or other body of water.

30 (b)(1) If a state agency wishes to institute a moratorium related to a
31 watershed or other body of water, the state agency first shall obtain
32 approval from the:

33 (A) Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and
34 Economic Development; and

35 (B) House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic
36 Development.



1 (2) A moratorium related to a watershed or other body of water
 2 approved under subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall be valid until June
 3 30 of the second year following the approval of the moratorium.

4 (3) By November 1 of each even-numbered year, a state agency
 5 obtaining approval to institute a moratorium under subdivision (b)(1) of this
 6 section shall provide a report on each moratorium in existence at the time of
 7 the report to the:

8 (A) Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and
 9 Economic Development; and

10 (B) House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic
 11 Development.

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 13 SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Existing moratoriums.

14 (a) A moratorium related to a watershed, including without limitation
 15 the Buffalo River Watershed, or other body of water instituted before the
 16 effective date of this act shall go through the approval process under § 15-
 17 23-107(b) within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this act to remain
 18 enforceable.

19 (b) A moratorium related to a watershed, including without limitation
 20 the Buffalo River Watershed, or other body of water instituted before the
 21 effective date of this act that does not receive legislative approval within
 22 thirty (30) days of the effective date of this act as required under
 23 subsection (a) of this section is unenforceable.