



Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Asa Hutchinson
José R. Romero, MD, Secretary of Health

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO RULES PERTAINING TO THE STATE BOARD OF SANITARIANS

May 2, 2022

PURPOSE

The Arkansas Department of Health (Department) is seeking Governor Hutchinson's review of proposed amendments to the Rules Pertaining to the State Board of Sanitarians.

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. 17-43-101 et seq., the Department has authority to promulgate rules pertaining to the State Board of Sanitarians. These rules ensure that registered sanitarians meet the minimum licensure requirements to protect the health and safety of the citizens of Arkansas. Sanitarians are professionals working in the field of environmental health and are now referred to as environmental health specialists. They are public health specialists who identify risks and enforce environmental regulations, health, and safety.

KEY POINTS

The proposed rule:

- Makes miscellaneous corrections to references and descriptions.
- Updates rule to comply with Acts 135, 725.

DISCUSSION

It is proposed to begin the rule making process for the Rule Pertaining to State Board of Sanitarians due to Acts 135 and 725 of the 2021 General Session of the Arkansas Legislature. Many technical corrections are also included. Upon approval of the Board of Health, the Department will proceed with the Administrative Procedure Act process.

The following changes are proposed:

- Section 1. Added definitions for Automatic licensure, Uniformed service member, and Uniformed service veteran.

- Section 8. Updated rule to reflect requirements of Act 135 of the 2021 General Assembly.
- Section 9. Updated rule to reflect requirements of Act 725 of the 2021 General Assembly.
- Overall administrative non-substantive changes throughout the rules including: updated legal citations throughout the rule; reorganizing rule sections to produce a clearer, more concise rule in an outline format, and removal of obsolete language.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that the proposed amendments to the Rules Pertaining to the State Board of Sanitarians be approved as proposed by the Department.