

ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

BY-LAWS



Arkansas Department of Health
Little Rock, Arkansas

*The Board of Health adopted this version of Bylaws at its July 24, 2025, meeting.
The Bylaws outline how the Board will conduct business and elect members.*

**By-Laws
of the
Arkansas State Board of Health [Board]**

ARTICLE I

Meetings of Board Members

Section 1. Purposes and Powers.

(a) The Board shall have general supervision and control of all matters pertaining to the health of the citizens of the State of Arkansas. It shall make a study of the causes and prevention of infectious, contagious and communicable diseases, and except as otherwise provided by the law of the State of Arkansas, shall have direction and control of quarantine and enforcement, and shall have power and authority to prevent the entrance of such diseases from points without the State of Arkansas, and shall have direction and control over all sanitary and quarantine measures for dealing with all such diseases within the State, and to suppress the same and prevent their spread.

(b) Power is hereby conferred on the Board to make all necessary and reasonable rules of a general nature for the protection of the public health, and for the general amelioration of the sanitary and hygienic conditions within the State, for the suppression and prevention of infectious, contagious and communicable diseases, for the proper enforcement of quarantine, isolation and control of such disease, and for the proper control of chemical exposures that may result in adverse health effects to the public. All rules promulgated by the Board shall be reviewed by the Legislative Joint Interim Committees on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor. However, the Board shall not regulate the practice of medicine or healing, or the practice of any other discipline of the healing arts designated as a learned profession by the laws of the State of Arkansas, nor interfere with the right of any citizen to employ the practitioner of his choice.

(c) The Board shall also be granted such other powers as conferred upon it by the laws of the State of Arkansas.

(d) The mission of the Board is to protect and promote the health of the people of Arkansas. The Board acts as an advocate for all Arkansas citizens, particularly those whose health is at greatest risk – the young, the elderly, the poor, the medically underserved, and those exposed to environmental hazards. Through their expertise and knowledge of health problems throughout the State, Board members act to inform the public on major health needs, and to serve as spokespersons for the programs of the Department of Health.

(e) The business and affairs of the Board shall be managed by the members of the Board, with the assistance of the Department of Health. The members shall be appointed by the Governor of the State of Arkansas, as provided by Arkansas law.

Section 2. Office and Place of Meetings.

(a) The office of the Board shall be in Little Rock, and the Board shall be furnished with all necessary equipment and supplies, including suitable rooms necessary for carrying on the work of the Board, and to be provided in a suitable building designated by the Department of Health.

(b) Meetings of the Board may be held at such places within the State of Arkansas, as shall be fixed by the Board and stated in the notice thereof. The books and records of the Board may be kept at such places within the State of Arkansas.

Section 3. Regular Meetings. The Board shall conduct its regular meetings on the fourth Thursday of the months of January, April, July and October of each year. The Board may change the date of the meeting by majority vote. The January meeting shall be the annual organizational meeting. Notice of regular meetings shall be given by the Department of Health to each member

of the Board during the first week in January of each year and at least seven (7) days before the date on which each meeting is to be held.

Section 4. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board for any purpose or purposes may be called by the President, a majority of the Board, or by the President upon written request of the Director of the Department of Health. Such written request of the majority of the Board members or the Director of the Department of Health shall state the purpose or purposes for which such meeting is to be called.

Section 5. Notice of Special Meetings. Except as otherwise expressly required by law, notice of special meetings of members shall be given at least seven (7) days before the date on which the meeting is to be held to each member of the Board by telephone or electronic means, or by delivering a notice personally, or by mailing such notice in a postage prepaid envelope directed to the address as it appears on the books of the Board. Notice of any adjourned meeting of the Board shall not be required to be given except where expressly required by law.

Section 6. Agenda. The Secretary of the Board of Health shall cause, at least seven (7) days prior to any regular or special meeting of the Board, an Agenda of the matters to be discussed at such regular or special meeting to be placed in the United States mail or via electronic means addressed to each member of the Board of Health.

Section 7. Quorum and Manner of Acting. Unless otherwise provided by law, the presence of a majority of the Board, attending in person or remotely by electronic means including without limitation a telephone or a video and audio platform, shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. In the absence of a quorum, a majority of the Board present may adjourn the meeting from time to time until a quorum shall be present. At all meetings of the Board in which a quorum is present, all matters shall be decided by the affirmative vote of a

majority of the members present and voting, except as otherwise required by the laws of the State of Arkansas.

Section 8. Resignation. Any member of the Board may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Governor of the State of Arkansas. The resignation of any member shall take effect upon receipt of notice thereof or at such later time as shall be specified in such notice; and, unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Section 9. Vacancies. Any vacancy that shall occur in the Board by reason of death, resignation, disqualification or removal or any other cause whatsoever shall be filled by the Governor as provided by law.

Section 10. Compensation of Members. Members of the State Board of Health may receive expense reimbursement, specifically per diem expenses and mileage costs, as well as a stipend in accordance with applicable law. No other compensation shall be received by Members for service on the Board. However, nothing herein contained shall be construed to preclude any member from serving the Department of Health in any other capacity and receiving compensation therefore. A state employee may not receive a stipend for serving as a member of the State Board of Health.

ARTICLE II

Committees of the Board

Section 1. Committees. The Board may establish and create from time to time such committees as it deems necessary to carry out the affairs and further the purposes of the Board. The standing committees of the Board shall be:

Executive

Rural Health

Nominating

Administrative Hearings

Local Grant Trust Fund

Section 2. Executive Committee. The Board shall establish an Executive Committee consisting of such members of the Board as it may determine, provided, however, that the Executive Committee membership shall always include at least one physician member of the Board. During the intervals between meetings of the Board, the Executive Committee may meet as frequently as it deems necessary, and shall receive reports, conduct routine business, and take official action on behalf of the Board only on issues that constitute a bona fide emergency requiring a decision prior to the next regular or special meeting of the Board. All actions of the Executive Committee shall be reported at the next regular or special meeting of the Board.

Section 3. Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of four (4) members appointed by the President for a term of one (1) year and chaired by the outgoing President. An announcement shall be made at every July meeting that those who wish to serve as President or those who wish to nominate a member for President should submit a nomination and any supporting information by the end of the October meeting.

The Nominating Committee shall thereafter consider any member's declaration of candidacy, submission of nominations, and supporting information to serve as the President-elect of the Board. By December 15 of each year, the Committee shall complete its review of the candidate information submitted for the President-elect of the Board. It shall prepare and have forwarded to each Board member the candidate selected as the nominee for the President-elect of the Board no later than thirty (30) days prior to the annual January meeting of the Board.

Section 4. Local Grant Trust Fund Committee. The Local Grant Trust Fund Committee shall consist of four (4) members appointed by the President for a term of one (1) year. It shall be responsible for conducting reviews and granting approval the distribution of grants for the construction, renovation, or other expansion of local health unit facilities pursuant to the Arkansas Health Department Building and Local Grant Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 20-7-205 et seq. The Committee shall report to the Board regarding the distribution of funds at the quarterly Board meetings.

Section 5. Rural Health Committee. The Rural Health Committee shall consist of four (4) members appointed by the President for a term of one (1) year. It shall be responsible for assisting in encouraging access to health care.

Section 6. Administrative Hearings Committee. The Administrative Hearings Committee shall consist of at least six (6) members appointed by the President for a term of one (1) year. It shall be responsible for serving as the primary source of Board members to form any needed panels to hear administrative hearings pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act under Article IV of the Board's bylaws.

ARTICLE III

Officers

Section 1. Number. The principal officers of the Board shall be the President, the President-elect, and the Secretary.

Section 2. The Secretary. The Secretary or Director of the Department of Health shall serve as the Secretary of the Board of Health. The Secretary of Health shall have all the powers of a member of the board. The Secretary of the Board shall send the Notice and agenda for board meetings to all members and shall have authority to sign the rules on behalf of the Board. The Secretary shall also have authority to issue all Quarantine and Isolation and any other Emergency Orders on behalf of the Board in order to protect public health. The Secretary shall also perform such duties as may be required by law or the State Board of Health.

Section 3. President and President-elect. The President and President-elect of the Board shall be chosen annually by the Board at the January meeting. The President-elect from the preceding term shall automatically succeed to the office of President. The new President-elect shall be chosen through an election by a majority of the present Board members. The President and President-elect should rotate annually between a Medical Doctor (MD or DO) and a non-Medical Doctor (MD or DO) board member.

Section 4. Term of Office. Each such officer shall hold office until his or her successor has been chosen and qualified, or until his or her death, resignation, or removal in the manner hereinafter provided.

Section 5. Subordinate Officers. In addition to the principal officers enumerated in Section 1 of Article III, the Board may have such other officers as the Board may deem necessary, each of

whom shall hold office for such period, have such authority, and perform such duties as the Board may, from time to time, determine.

Section 6. Removal. Any officer may be removed, with cause, at any time, by a vote of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members of the Board present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the Board at which proper notification of such proposed action was made in advance to each member. However, the Secretary shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

Section 7. Vacancies. A vacancy in any office may be filled for the unexpired portion of the term in the manner prescribed in these By-laws for election or appointment to such office for such unexpired time.

Section 8. President. The President shall have general supervision and management of the affairs of the Board subject to the control of the Board. In general, he shall perform all duties incident to the office of President as herein defined and all such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the Board.

Section 9. President-elect. The President-elect shall, in the absence or disability of the President, perform the duties and exercise the powers of President of the Board. The President-elect shall perform such other duties and have such other powers as the President or the Board may from time to time prescribe.

ARTICLE IV

Administrative Hearings

Each administrative hearing regarding licensure or other matters under the Board's jurisdiction shall be heard by a panel made up of three (3) members of the Board. Each public hearing shall provide due process to any entitled to a hearing as a result of actions taken by the Department of Health for which the Board of Health has jurisdiction. The three (3) person panel shall render decisions in the form of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Orders consistent with the requirements of the Arkansas Administrative Procedures Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-201 et seq. The Panel's Orders shall be referred to the full Board of Health at the next quarterly meeting of the Board after the Order is entered for adoption.

ARTICLE V

Amendments

The By-Laws of the Board may be altered, amended or repealed by the affirmative vote of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members of the Board, provided notice of the proposed action and the substance of the suggested amendment shall be given to each member of the Board as provided herein.

ARTICLE VI

Administrative Year

The administrative year of the Board shall be the calendar year.

ARTICLE VII

Procedural Rules

All meetings and procedural matters of the Board shall be conducted in accordance with “Robert’s Rules of Order” except when in conflict with these By-Laws or the laws of the State of Arkansas.