

1 State of Arkansas  
2 90th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2015  
4

As Engrossed: S3/30/15  
**A Bill**

SENATE BILL 983

5 By: Senator J. Woods  
6 By: Representative Neal  
7

8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 *AN ACT TO PROVIDE TRANSPARENCY AND OPEN ACCESS TO*  
10 *PUBLIC RECORDS AND DATA; TO CREATE THE OPEN DATA AND*  
11 *TRANSPARENCY TASK FORCE TO DETERMINE THE BEST*  
12 *PRACTICES FOR THE STATE TO ACHIEVE THE MOST EFFICIENT*  
13 *SYSTEM FOR MAINTAINING AND DELIVERING THE STATE'S*  
14 *PUBLIC RECORDS AND DATA; TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR*  
15 *LEGISLATION TO ACHIEVE A COMPREHENSIVE OPEN DATA AND*  
16 *TRANSPARENCY ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

17  
18  
19 **Subtitle**

20 *TO CREATE THE OPEN DATA AND TRANSPARENCY*  
21 *TASK FORCE TO DETERMINE THE BEST*  
22 *PRACTICES FOR THE STATE TO ACHIEVE THE*  
23 *MOST EFFICIENT SYSTEM FOR MAINTAINING AND*  
24 *DELIVERING THE STATE'S PUBLIC RECORDS AND*  
25 *DATA.*

26  
27  
28 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

29  
30 *SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Open Data and Transparency Task Force.*

31 *(a) As used in this section, "state agency" means an agency,*  
32 *institution, authority, department, board, commission, bureau, council, or*  
33 *other agency of the State of Arkansas supported by cash funds or the*  
34 *appropriation of state or federal funds.*

35 *(b)(1) The General Assembly finds that:*

36 *(A) State agencies contain great amounts of valuable*



1 information and reports on all aspects of life for the citizens of this  
2 state, including without limitation health, business, public safety, labor,  
3 and transportation data;

4 (B) The tremendous amount of data maintained by state  
5 agencies can result in the duplication of efforts, data, records, and parts  
6 of data and records that may result in the maintenance of inconsistent data  
7 and records concerning the same citizen;

8 (C) The lack of a quick and efficient delivery system to  
9 respond to legislative and executive branch inquiries is harmful to the  
10 policy-making process and ultimately costs taxpayers money;

11 (D) Progressive states have evolved to become data-driven  
12 governments that use data as a strategic asset to improve the delivery of  
13 services to the state's citizens and to become more efficient stewards of  
14 citizens' data;

15 (E) Ensuring the quality and consistency of public data is  
16 essential to maintaining the data's value and utility;

17 (F) New information technology has fundamentally changed  
18 the way people search for and expect to find information and can aggregate  
19 large quantities of data to allow the state to provide better information to  
20 citizens with increasing efficiency and thoroughness; and

21 (G) The state should:

22 (i) Evaluate ways to appropriately, efficiently, and  
23 securely share data between and within state agencies to allow for quicker,  
24 more impactful cross-agency analysis to allow policymakers to make quicker,  
25 more informed decisions; and

26 (ii) Use the innovations in information technology  
27 to enhance public access to public data to make the state more transparent  
28 and to promote public trust while eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse in the  
29 execution and delivery of government services.

30 (2) It is the intent of the General Assembly by this act to  
31 enable the Open Data and Transparency Task Force to:

32 (A) Evaluate, study, and address the findings contained in  
33 subdivision (b)(1) of this section;

34 (B) Determine the best practices for the state to achieve  
35 the most efficient system for maintaining and delivering the state's public  
36 records and data to public officials, government entities, and private

1 citizens; and

2 (C) Recommend specific solutions and legislation for an  
3 efficient open data and transparency law based upon open data policy  
4 principles for state agencies to maintain and share public data that is  
5 owned, controlled, collected, or maintained by state agencies.

6 (c) The Open Data and Transparency Task Force is created.

7 (d) The task force shall consist of the following members:

8 (1) One (1) member appointed by the Governor;

9 (2) One (1) member appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
10 Representatives;

11 (3) One (1) member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the  
12 Senate;

13 (4) The Chair of the House Committee on State Agencies and  
14 Governmental Affairs or a member of the House Committee on State Agencies and  
15 Governmental Affairs designated by the chair;

16 (5) The Chair of the Senate Committee on State Agencies and  
17 Governmental Affairs or a member of the Senate Committee on State Agencies  
18 and Governmental Affairs designated by the chair;

19 (6) The House Cochair of the Joint Committee on Advanced  
20 Communications and Information Technology or a House member of the Joint  
21 Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology designated by  
22 the House cochair;

23 (7) The Senate Cochair of the Joint Committee on Advanced  
24 Communications and Information Technology or a Senate member of the Joint  
25 Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology designated by  
26 the Senate cochair;

27 (8) The Director of the Department of Finance and Administration  
28 or his or her designee;

29 (9) The Director of the Department of Health or his or her  
30 designee;

31 (10) The Director of the Department of Human Services or his or  
32 her designee;

33 (11) The Director of the Department of Education or his or her  
34 designee;

35 (12) The Director of the Department of Higher Education or his  
36 or her designee;

1           (13) The Director of the Department of Correction or his or her  
2 designee;

3           (14) The Director of the Department of Community Correction or  
4 his or her designee;

5           (15) The Director of the Department of Information Systems or  
6 his or her designee; and

7           (16) The Attorney General or his or her designee.

8           (e) A vacancy on the task force shall be filled by the appointing  
9 authority for the unexpired portion of the term in which it occurs.

10          (f)(1) The Governor shall designate his or her appointee to the task  
11 force to:

12           (A) Call the first meeting of the task force on or before  
13 September 1, 2015; and

14           (B) Serve as chair.

15          (2) At the first meeting, the members of the task force shall  
16 elect from its membership a vice chair.

17          (3) The task force shall conduct its meetings in Pulaski County  
18 at the State Capitol or via teleconference or web conference as technology  
19 permits and as desired to allow for scheduling flexibility for its members.

20          (4) The task force shall meet at least bimonthly or as decided  
21 upon by the task force.

22          (g)(1) A majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a  
23 quorum for transacting any business of the task force.

24          (2) An affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum present shall  
25 be necessary to transact business.

26          (h) The Department of Information Systems shall provide staff for the  
27 task force.

28          (i) The task force shall:

29           (1) Evaluate, study, and address the findings contained in  
30 subdivision (b)(1) of this section;

31           (2) Determine the best practices for the state to achieve the  
32 most efficient system for maintaining and delivering the state's public  
33 records and data to public officials, government entities, and private  
34 citizens; and

35           (3) Recommend specific solutions and legislation for an  
36 efficient open data and transparency law based upon open data policy

1 principles for state agencies to maintain and share public data that is  
2 owned, controlled, collected, or maintained by state agencies.

3 (j) The task force shall provide a written report by December 31,  
4 2016, to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the  
5 Speaker of the House of Representatives containing the results of its  
6 findings and activities and its recommendations, including recommendations  
7 for proposed legislation.

8 (k) The task force expires on January 1, 2017.

9  
10 /s/J. Woods

11  
12  
13 **APPROVED: 04/08/2015**  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36