For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS PAPERWORK EFFICIENCY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT; TO PERMIT ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT SUBMISSIONS AND PUBLICATIONS BY STATE AGENCIES, COURTS, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE INSPECTION OF PUBLIC RECORDS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT OF 1967; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS PAPERWORK EFFICIENCY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT; TO PERMIT ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT SUBMISSIONS AND PUBLICATIONS; AND TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE INSPECTION OF PUBLIC RECORDS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 1, Chapter 2, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

1-2-125. Electronic document submissions and publications.
(a)(1) A state agency, a court, or a local government entity that is required by law to accept, solicit, or publish any information, record, report, application, or other required material may accept, solicit, or publish the information, record, report, application, or other required material in an electronic form.
(2) If a state agency, a court, or a local government entity
accepts, solicits, or publishes the information, record, report, application, or other required material in an electronic form under subdivision (a)(1) of this section, the state agency, the court, or the local government entity shall also comply with existing requirements in law concerning the acceptance, solicitation, or publication of information, records, reports, applications, or other required materials.

(3) A state agency, a court, or a local government entity may require an electronic form of receipt verification of information, records, reports, applications, or other required materials accepted, solicited, or published in an electronic form.

(b) If as provided by this section, a state agency, a court, or a local government entity decides to accept, solicit, or publish the information, record, report, application, or other required material in an electronic form, the state agency, the court, or the local government entity shall:

(1) Notify the Legislative Council within thirty (30) of its decision and the justifications for the decision; and

(2) On or before the expiration date of this section, advise the Legislative Council as to the sections of the Arkansas Code that should be amended to allow indefinitely for the discretion to accept, solicit, or publish the information, records, report, application, or other required material in an electronic form.

(c) This section expires four (4) years after the effective date of this act.

/s/Collins