

Use only for **FINAL** and **EMERGENCY RULES**



Revised 7/2015 to reflect new legislation passed in the 2015 Regular Session (Act 1258). This act changed the effective date from 30 days to 10 days after filing the rule.

## N1.01 Game Fish Daily Limits

Species	Statewide Daily
Alligator Gar	1 Under 36 Inches 1 Over 36 Inches Annually with Tag
Black Bass	10 (including no more than 4 Smallmouth)
Bream (over 4 inches length)	50
Catfish (except Bullhead)	10
Crappie	30
Rock Bass	10
Paddlefish	2
Sauger	6
Saugeye	6
Shovelnose Sturgeon	No Limit
Striped Bass or Hybrid (Combination)	6
Trout	5 (including no more than 2 Brown, 2 Cutthroat, 2 Brook)
Walleye	6
White Bass	25

### EXCEPTIONS:

#### A. The following bodies of water are restricted as follows:

1. **Horseshoe Bend Pool** (Strawberry River in Izaard County) – 1/2 the daily limit for all sportfish.
2. **Lake Poinsett** – All game fish except catfish must be released immediately, with a catfish daily limit of 5. Effective January 1, 2022, all game fish except bream and catfish must be released immediately, with a bream daily limit of 25.
3. **Mercer Bayou** (Sulphur River WMA) – All game fish must be released immediately.
4. **Lake Monticello and all creeks and ponds its lakebed** – Game fish creel limit is 0; all game fish caught must be immediately returned to the water.
5. **Lake Conway** – TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ALL GAME FISH DAILY LIMITS. Pursuant to Emergency Minute Order adopted on July 20, 2023, there shall be no game fish daily limits for Lake Conway during the draining of the lake for dam repairs. This emergency action shall remain in effect from July 21, 2023 until January 16, 2024 only and, thereafter, the temporary suspension shall terminate and all game fish daily limits shall apply once more.

#### B. **BLACK BASS (LARGEMOUTH, SPOTTED, SMALLMOUTH):**

1. **Smallmouth bass:**
  - i. **Ozark Zone** (Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Clay, Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, Izaard, Lawrence, Madison, Marion, Newton, Randolph, Searcy, Sharp, Stone, Van Buren and Washington counties) – smallmouth bass minimum length limit of 12 inches with a daily limit of 4, except Bull Shoals, Beaver, Greers Ferry, and Table Rock lakes (see Ex. 1(B) below). Greers Ferry Lake – smallmouth bass minimum length limit of 12 inches, daily limit 6. Norfolk Lake – smallmouth bass minimum length limit of 13 inches, daily limit 6.
  - ii. **Ozark Zone Blue Ribbon Streams** – Crooked Creek from Arkansas

Highway 101 bridge downstream to the confluence with the White River; between the U.S. Highways 62-412 and

U.S. Highway 62 Spur bridges at Pyatt – smallmouth bass minimum length limit 18 inches, daily limit of 1; Buffalo River from confluence with Clabber Creek downstream to the confluence with the White River – smallmouth bass minimum length limit 18 inches, daily limit of 1; all other water of Crooked Creek and Buffalo River – smallmouth bass minimum length limit of 14 inches, daily limit of 2.

- iii. **Ozark Zone Catch-and-Release Area** – Crooked Creek, along boundary of Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation property near Kelley’s Slab Access.
- iv. **Ozark Zone Quality Streams** – Kings River from Trigger Gap to U.S. Highway 62 bridge –smallmouth bass minimum length limit of 18 inches, daily limit of 1; all other water of the Kings, Illinois, Spring, South Fork of the Spring and Eleven Point rivers and War Eagle Creek – smallmouth bass minimum length limit of 14 inches, daily limit of 2.
- v. **Ouachita/Boston Zone** (all Arkansas counties not included in the Ozark Zone) – smallmouth bass minimum length limit of 10 inches, daily limit of 4.
- vi. **Ouachita/Boston Zone Quality Streams** – (Mulberry, Caddo above DeGray Lake, DeGray Lake, Cossatot River, Ouachita River upstream from Lake Ouachita, Ouachita River downstream from Remmel Dam, Saline River, including its 4headwater forks in Saline, Perry and Garland counties, South Fork/Ouachita, Little Missouri above Lake Greeson) – smallmouth bass minimum length limit of 12 inches, daily limit of 2.
- vii. **Ouachita/Boston Zone Catch-and-Release Area** – all smallmouth bass caught in Lake Catherine must be immediately returned to the water.

**2. Largemouth bass:**

- i. Lake Terre Noire, Lake June, and Lake Sylvia – daily limit 5.
- ii. Lake Millwood – daily limit 6.
- iii. Mallard Lake – daily limit 1.
- iv. Marion McCollum Lake, Lake Sylvia – Largemouth bass caught must be immediately returned to the water.

**3. Black Bass (all species combined):**

- i. Beaver, Bull Shoals, DeGray, Norfork, Table Rock lakes, Lake Jack Nolen, Ouachita, Ashbaugh – daily limit 6.
- ii. Lake Lou Emma – daily limit 5.
- iii. War Eagle Creek – daily limit 2.
- iv. Lakes Ouachita, DeGray, and Greeson – in addition to the daily limit of black basses, 10 spotted bass may be taken.

**C. BREAM:** No limit on bream 4 inches or shorter.

- 1. Lake Poinsett** – Statewide daily creel of 50 bream.

**D. CATFISH:**

- 1. No limit on catfish on Grand Lake – Chicot County, Lake Chicot (including that portion of Connerly Bayou downstream from Connerly Dam to the bayou’s mouth and Ditch Bayou from the inlet on Lake Chicot to Ditch Bayou Dam) and between the main levees of the Mississippi River, from the confluence of the Mississippi/White rivers upstream to the Benzal Railroad Bridge, and from the confluence of upstream to the Benzal Railroad Bridge, and from the confluence of the Mississippi/Arkansas rivers upstream to the Yancopin Railroad Bridge.
- 2. No limit on blue and channel catfish from Little River (below Millwood Dam) Red and Sulphur rivers.
- 3. No limit on channel catfish on Marion McCollum Lake Greenlee – Monroe County and Lake Erling.

4. Catfish daily limit – 5 in DeWitt City Park Lake (Arkansas County); Lake Atalanta (Benton County); Hidden Lake (Carroll County); Big Timber Lake and Gurdon Lake (Clark County); Hubble Lake (Clay County); Lake Bailey (Conway County); Lake Cambadelle and Lake Lou Emma (Crawford County); Marion City Park Lake (Crittenden County); Village Creek State Park Lakes (Cross and St. Francis Counties); Lake Bennett (Faulkner County); Lake Clearfork (Garland County); Crowley Ridge State Park Lake and Reynolds Park Lake (Greene County); Newark City Lake (Independence County); Lake June (Lafayette County); Ward City Park Lake (Lonoke County); Hindsville Lake (Madison County); Blytheville City Park Lake (Mississippi County); Donald Branch Fishing Pond (Monroe County); Lake Sylvia (Perry County); Shady Lake (Polk County); Twin Lakes A and B, Camp Ferncliff (Pulaski County); Old Davidsonville State Park Lake (Randolph County); Forrest City Park Lake (St. Francis County); Truman Baker Lake (Scott County); Cave City's Lakes (Sharp County); Gunner Pool and Hayden Bend Pond (Stone County); Devils Den State Park (Washington County); Spring Lake, Kingfisher, Clubhouse Lakes in Petit Jean WMA (Yell County) and posted USDA Forest Service ponds and lakes.
5. In addition to daily limit, 10 channel catfish may be taken on the Arkansas River.
6. In addition to daily limit, 10 blue catfish may be taken in Lake Erling.

**E. CRAPPIE:**

1. Crappie daily limit – 15 in Beaver, Table Rock, Bull Shoals, Norfork reservoirs, Cane Creek Lake (Lincoln County), and Gurdon Lake (Clark County).
2. Crappie daily limit – 50 between the main levees of the Mississippi River, from the confluence of the Mississippi/White rivers upstream to the Benzal Railroad Bridge, from the confluence of the Mississippi/ Arkansas rivers upstream to the Yancopin Railroad Bridge and on Horseshoe Lake (Crittenden County).
3. Crappie daily limit – 20 in Lake Chicot and Blue Mountain Lake.
4. No crappie daily limit on Lake Charles, Lake Frierson, and Lake Hogue.

**F. WALLEYE:**

1. Beaver Lake and its tributaries; Table Rock Lake and its tributaries to Beaver Dam; Bull Shoals Lake, and Norfork Lake – minimum length limit of 18 inches, daily limit 4.
2. In compliance with Addendum [N1.02](#) and Code Chapter [28.00](#).

**G. WHITE BASS, STRIPED BASS, HYBRID STRIPED BASS:**

**1. White bass:**

- i. Between the main levees of the Mississippi river, from the confluence of the Mississippi and White rivers upstream to the Benzal Railroad Bridge, and from the confluence of the

Mississippi and Arkansas rivers upstream to the Yancopin Railroad Bridge – daily limit of 50, possession limit of 100.

- ii. Beaver Lake and its tributaries; Bob Kidd Lake; Greers Ferry Lake and its tributaries; Lakes Ashbaugh, Sequoyah, and Monticello – no limit.

**2. Striped bass and hybrid striped bass (combined):**

- i. Beaver and Norfork Lakes; Lake Ouachita – daily limit 3.
- ii. Arkansas River and connecting lakes – daily limit 10.
- iii. Lake Monticello – no limit.

**H. ALLIGATOR GAR:**

- 1. Alligator gar longer than 36 inches may not be harvested from noon May 1 – noon July 1 statewide.
- 2. Alligator Gar Tag is required to harvest alligator gar over 36 inches (Code 26.28).

**I. TROUT (BROOK, BROWN, CUTTHROAT, RAINBOW, TIGER):**

**1. Brown trout:**

- i. White River from Bull Shoals Dam to Arkansas Highway 58 Bridge (Bull Shoals Tailwater) and North Fork White River (Norfork Tailwater) – minimum length 24 inches, daily limit 1; only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 14 inches.
- ii. Spavinaw Creek (Benton County) west of Arkansas Highway 59 – minimum length 16 inches, daily limit 2.
- iii. Spring River (from 100 yards below Dam No.1 at Mammoth Spring State Park to the mouth of Myatt Creek.) – minimum length 14 inches, daily limit 1; only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 14 inches.
- iv. Little Red River from Greers Ferry Dam to Arkansas Highway 305 Bridge (Greers Ferry Tailwater) – daily limit of 5 (only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 16 inches).
- v. White River from Beaver Dam to boundary signs at Houseman Access (Beaver Tailwater) – protected slot limit of 13-16 inches, daily limit of 5 (only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 16 inches).
- vi. Little Missouri River from Narrows Dam to Arkansas Highway 27 Bridge (Narrows Tailwater) – all brown trout must be released immediately.

**2. Cutthroat trout:**

- i. White River from Bull Shoals Dam to Arkansas Highway 58 Bridge (Bull Shoals Tailwater) – minimum length 24 inches, daily limit of 1; only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 14 inches.
- ii. North Fork White River (Norfork Tailwater), Spavinaw Creek (Benton County) west of Arkansas Highway 59 – minimum length 16 inches, daily limit of 2.
- iii. Little Red River from Greers Ferry Dam to Arkansas Highway 305 Bridge (Greers Ferry Tailwater) – only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 16 inches.
- iv. White River from Beaver Dam to boundary signs at Houseman Access (Beaver Tailwater) – protected slot limit of 13-16 inches (only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 16 inches).

**3. Brook trout:**

- i. White River from Bull Shoals Dam to Arkansas Highway 58 Bridge (Bull Shoals Tailwater), North Fork White River (Norfork Tailwater) – minimum length 14 inches, daily limit of 1; only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 14 inches.
- ii. Spavinaw Creek (Benton County) west of Arkansas Highway 59 – minimum length 14 inches, daily limit 2.
- iii. Little Red River from Greers Ferry Dam to Arkansas Highway 305 Bridge (Greers Ferry Tailwater) – only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 16 inches.
- iv. White River from Beaver Dam to boundary signs at Houseman Access (Beaver Tailwater) – protected slot limit of 13-16 inches (only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 16 inches).

**4. Rainbow trout:**

- i. Lake Atalanta (Benton County) – daily limit of 5.
- ii. White River from Bull Shoals Dam to Arkansas Highway 58 Bridge (Bull Shoals Tailwater), North Fork White River (Norfork Tailwater), Spring River – daily limit of 5 (only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 14 inches).
- iii. Little Red River from Greers Ferry Dam to Arkansas Highway 305 Bridge (Greers Ferry Tailwater) – daily limit of 5 (only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 16 inches).
- iv. White River from Beaver Dam to boundary signs at Houseman Access (Beaver Tailwater) – protected slot limit of 13-16 inches, daily limit of 5 (only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 16 inches).

**5. Tiger trout:**

- i. White River from Bull Shoals Dam to Arkansas Highway 58 Bridge (Bull Shoals Tailwater) and North Fork White River (Norfork Tailwater) – minimum length 24 inches, daily limit 1; only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 14 inches.

**All fish measurements must follow procedures listed in the definition of "Length Limits" in Code [01.00-C](#).**

**ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

MINUTE ORDER NO:	<u>23-038</u>	SUBJECT:	<u>Emergency Suspension of Game Fish</u>
DATE PASSED:	<u>July 20, 2023</u>		<u>Limits for Lake Conway Draining</u>
PAGE <u>1</u> of <u>2</u> PAGES		LOCATION:	<u>Faulkner County</u>

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**WHEREAS,** the Craig D. Campbell Lake Conway Reservoir is an approximately 6,700-acre lake located three miles south of the city of Conway in Faulkner County, Arkansas that is owned and managed by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission under authority of Amendment 35 of the Arkansas Constitution; **and**

**WHEREAS,** Lake Conway is the first and largest lake constructed by the Commission and, in fact, is the largest lake ever constructed by a state wildlife agency. Because of its size, central location and excellent fishing, it has been one of this state's favored fishing spots since it was built on Palarm Creek in 1948. The lake is well known for its abundant supply of bluegills, redears, bream, bass, crappie, and big blue and channel catfish; **and**

**WHEREAS,** AGFC staff members have identified multiple issues with the Lake Conway dam that are in need of prompt attention and, to properly resolve these issues, it is necessary to fully drain the lake to gain access to both sides of the dam, make repairs, and perform additional lake renovations; **and**

**WHEREAS,** during the upcoming drainage of the lake, a large number of desirable game fish will either be flushed out through the spillway drain pipe or become stranded in small pools of water. This valuable fisheries resources could be harvested and utilized by local residents, thereby preventing the waste of edible portions and lessening the presence of decaying fish carcasses in the lake bed; **and**

**WHEREAS,** given the unusual emergency circumstances and in order to protect public welfare and prevent unnecessary waste of a valuable game fish resource, the Director and AGFC staff are recommending temporarily suspending enforcement of the recreational game fish daily limits and length limits for Lake Conway currently applicable under AGFC Code Chapter 25.00 and Addendum Chapter N1.00, from July 21, 2023 until January 16, 2024, so that so that all persons whose fishing privileges otherwise are not suspended may harvest fish prior to their loss due to water drainage and hot temperatures; **and**

**WHEREAS,** the attached regulations have been communicated through a variety of media avenues to sportsmen and the general public throughout the state for review and comment for at least the past 30 days; **and**

**WHEREAS,** after carefully considering the recommendations of Commission staff and the Regulations Committee, as well as comments received from the public, the Commission has determined that the attached regulations promote sound wildlife conservation and management and are consistent with Amendment 35 of the

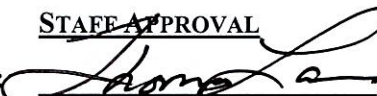


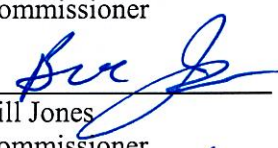

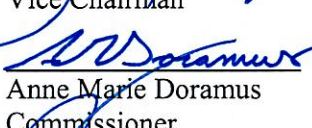
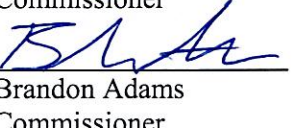

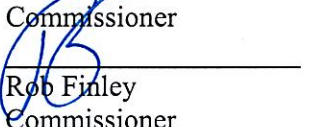



Arkansas Constitution and that these regulations should now be approved for application for Lake Conway.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED** this 20th day of July 2023 that the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission hereby declares that an emergency exists, and approves and adopts the attached regulations, which amend AGFC Code Chapter 25.00 and Addendum Chapter N1.00, effective immediately, to temporarily suspend enforcement of the provisions affecting game fish daily limits and length limits on Lake Conway from July 21, 2023 until January 16, 2024, and thereafter the temporary suspension shall terminate.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that the Commission staff is authorized to proceed with legally certifying and filing the attached regulations with the Secretary of State, State Library, and Bureau of Legislative Research and incorporating them into the Commission Code Book and Addendum.

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	<u>STAFF APPROVAL</u>	<u>COMMISSION APPROVAL</u>	
Submitted by:	 Tommy Laird Chief	 Stan Jones Chairman	 Philip Tappan Commissioner
Division:	Fisheries	 J. D. Neeley Vice Chairman	 Bill Jones Commissioner
Approved:	 Director	 Anne Marie Doramus Commissioner	 Brandon Adams Commissioner
Approved:	 Legal	 Rob Finley Commissioner	
Approved:	 Fiscal		



## FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS COMPLETELY  
(Attach additional pages if needed)

**DEPARTMENT:** Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

**DIVISION:** Fisheries

**PERSON COMPLETING THIS STATEMENT:** Sean Lusk

**TELEPHONE #:** (877) 525-8606

**FAX #:** (501) 525-2265

**EMAIL:**

Sean.lusk@agfc.ar.gov

**SHORT TITLE OF THIS RULE:** Temporarily suspend Lake Conway game fish daily limits.

1. Does this proposed, amended, or repealed rule or regulation have a financial impact?  
Yes: No: **X**
2. Do you believe that the development of a financial impact statement is so speculative as to be cost prohibitive? Yes: No: **X** If "Yes", please explain:
3. If the purpose of this rule is to implement a **federal** rule or regulation, please give the incremental cost for implementing the regulation. Please indicate if the cost provided is the cost of the program.

### Current Fiscal Year

General Revenue	\$	
Federal Funds	\$	
Cash Funds	\$	N/A
Special Revenue	\$	
Other (Identify)	\$	
Total	\$	

### Next Fiscal Year

General Revenue	\$	
Federal Funds	\$	
Cash Funds	\$	N/A
Special Revenue	\$	
Other (Identify)	\$	
Total	\$	

4. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to any **party** subject to the proposed, amended, or repealed rule? (Estimated cost includes fees, administrative penalties, reporting, record keeping, equipment, construction, labor, professional services, revenue loss, or other costs associated with compliance.) Identify the **party** subject to the proposed rule, and explain how they are impacted.

**Current Fiscal Year:** \$0

**Next Fiscal Year:** \$0

Party Subject to Rule: **Anglers in Arkansas**

Effect on Party Subject to Rule: **This regulation reduces harvest restrictions for game fish.**

5. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to the **agency** to implement this rule? Explain the financial benefit to the agency from implementing this rule.

**Current Fiscal Year:** \$ N/A

**Next Fiscal Year:** \$ N/A

Financial Benefit to Agency: N/A

6. Do alternative means exist for accomplishing the objectives of the rules that might be less burdensome to small business? Yes: No: **X**

Why were such alternatives not proposed:

7. Compare this rule with federal and state counterparts:

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM:**

1. ECONOMIC IMPACT - In compliance with Governor's Proclamation EO 05-04, this form must be completed for **commercial licenses and permits** and submitted at the time a regulation is proposed to the Commission. The form will be forwarded to the Chief of Fiscal Services Division for review. After review, the form will be submitted to:

Director  
Arkansas Department of Economic Development  
One Capitol Mall  
Little Rock, AR 72201

2. FINANCIAL IMPACT - After passage of any regulation changes which have a financial impact (including all sport, lifetime, and commercial licenses) this form must be completed and submitted to the Chief of the Legal Division. The form is required for filing regulation changes with the Secretary of State.

## LEGAL NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will be held beginning at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, July 20, 2023, at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Headquarters located at 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205. At that time, regulations and business pertaining to the operation of the Game and Fish Commission and other fiscal and administrative matters will be considered and acted upon. Additionally, Committee meetings attended by Commissioners and agency staff members will be held throughout the day on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Headquarters located at 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205. All interested persons are invited to attend these meetings.

The Commission meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup> will be live-streamed and a link for easy viewing access will be available on the agency website. Please visit the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission website at <https://www.agfc.com> for additional up-to-date details as the meeting dates draw closer.

Items on the agenda for the July 20, 2023 meeting will include discussion and/or adoption of proposed regulations that previously were considered at the June 14-15, 2023 Commission Meetings, plus consideration of various Hunting and Fishing Regulations and regulations pertaining to the Enforcement Division of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, including but not limited to:

- **Fishing Regulations** – Take emergency action to amend existing regulations to temporarily suspend all game fish daily limits and length limits on Lake Conway during drainage of the lake for making repairs to the dam to allow anglers to harvest fish that would otherwise expire during this process. This emergency action shall remain in effect from July 21, 2023 until January 16, 2024, and then shall terminate.

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects should submit comments in writing to this office before the start of the July 20, 2023 meeting (preferably by 4:30 p.m. on the day before). Any request to make an oral presentation at the meeting should be submitted in writing to this office on or before July 10, 2023. Copies of any proposed rules or regulations may be obtained at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission main office and at [www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com), or through a written request mailed to the address below.

AUSTIN BOOTH, DIRECTOR  
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission  
Game & Fish Commission Building  
2 Natural Resources Drive  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205



**Austin Booth**  
Director

**Chris Racey**  
Chief of Staff

**Spencer Griffith**  
Deputy Director

**Roger Mangham**  
Deputy Director

## Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

**James F. Goodhart**  
General Counsel

**John P. Marks**  
Sr. Assistant General Counsel  
Phone: 501-223-6327

**Christian N. Parks**  
Assistant General Counsel

**James R. Brown**  
Assistant General Counsel  
Fax: 501-223-6463

July 21, 2023


Ms. Jacqueline Cowan  
Arkansas Secretary of State, Rules & Regulation Filing  
500 Woodlane Drive, Room 26  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
*Via email only:* register@sos.arkansas.gov

RE: Legal Notice for Approved Rules or Regulations – July 2023 meetings

Dear Ms. Cowan:

Included are two (2) approved regulation changes that were published in the Legal Notice to the Arkansas Democrat Gazette on June 18-22, 2023. Should you have any questions or comments concerning this filing, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Milligan or me at (501) 382-3807 at your convenience.

Sincerely,

  
James F. Goodhart  
General Counsel

JFG/srm  
Attachment

cc: Ms. Rebecca Miller-Rice, Bureau of Legislative Research  
miller-ricer@blr.arkansas.gov  
Ms. Sheri Thomas, Bureau of Legislative Research  
thomass@blr.arkansas.gov  
aslib-govdocs@ade.arkansas.gov