ARKANSAS REGISTER



Proposed Rule Cover Sheet

Secretary of State John Thurston 500 Woodlane Street, Suite 026 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1094 (501) 682-5070

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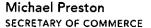


Name of Department
ARKANSAS DEPT. OF COMMERCE
Agency or Division Name
AR. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Other Subdivision or Department, If Applicable
Previous Agency Name, If Applicable
Contact Person
STEVEN PORCH
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Name of Rule
Newspaper Name
DEMOCRAT GAZETTE
Date of Publishing
OCTOBER 7, 2020

Final Date for Public Comment NOVEMBER 7, 2020







TO:

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM:

ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

DATE:

OCTOBER 6, 2020

SUBJ:

SUPPLEMENTAL ARKANSAS RURAL CONNECT CORONAVIRUS RULE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please find attached or available by electronic publication by the Arkansas Economic Development Commission ("AEDC") Proposed Rule, "SUPPLEMENTAL ARKANSAS RURAL CONNECT CONRONAVIRUS RULE." The Director of AEDC ("Director") is filing for public comment and public hearing a proposed regulation addressing participation in the Arkansas Rural Connect Broadband Grant Program (hereafter, the "ARC Program") for communities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Pursuant to Arkansas Administrative Procedures Act, and other applicable laws or rules, NOTICE is hereby given that a PUBLIC HEARING will be held on November 9, 2020, at 08:30 A.M to 9AM. The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to determine whether the Director should adopt the proposed Rule, "SUPPLEMENTAL ARKANSAS RURAL CONNECT CORONAVIRUS RULE." This will be an electronically conducted public hearing using "Zoom." Please join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android at:

https://arkansas.zoom.us/j/93578300318?pwd=ajRtMWFKejdNbmc2SGM2VkpnWGhhQT09 Password: 237456

<u>Telephone</u>

Dial:

USA 636 651 3141 USA 8774029753 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 5740401

This hearing will begin on Monday, November 9th, from 8:30 A.M. until 9:00 A.M. Interested persons may type in their questions in the "chat" function and a Department representative will answer them. Alternatively, any interested person may make written or electronic comments, statements or opinions to the address below before the administrative record is closed on November 9, 2020, at 9 A.M., unless the comment period is extended by the Director.

Persons wishing to testify or make comments are requested to submit intended statements in writing in advance. Direct your inquiries to: Dr. Nathan Smith, State Broadband Manager, 501-682-5464, email: Nathan.smith@arkansas.gov or broadband@arkansas.gov; or to Mr. Clint Moore, 501-682-5917.

A copy of the proposed Rule may be obtained or viewed on the AEDC Website at www.arkansasedc.com/data-reports/rules. The rules may also be received by calling Dr. Nathan Smith or Mr. Clint Moore.

Sincerely,

Steven Porch Chief Legal Officer

Arkansas Department of Commerce



October 6, 2020

Arkansas Secretary of State State Capitol Building Little Rock, AR 72201 Attn. Arkansas Register

Re: PROPOSED RULE, "SUPPLEMENTAL ARKANSAS RURAL CONNECT CORONAVIRUS RULE"

Dear Secretary:

Arkansas Act 1478 of 2003 adds to requirements for adoption and re-adoption of public agency rules and regulations. In that regard, the new Act:

- (a) Requires notice of proposed Rule "SUPPLEMENTAL ARKANSAS RURAL CONNECT CORONAVIRUS RULE," as well as the Public Rule Hearing at the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, to be published by the Arkansas Secretary Of State on the Internet for thirty (30) days pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-218 of the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, as amended; and
- (b) Requires AEDC filing of its adopted and proposed rules and notices with the Arkansas Secretary Of State in an electronic format acceptable to the Secretary.

In that regard, AEDC has scheduled a public hearing as to proposed adoption of the above described Rule. Enclosed are the AEDC Notices of Public Hearing and a copy of the proposed rule. This proposed new Rule supplements a previously filed Rule. We are herein proposing this new Rule to supplement the Arkansas Rural Connect program.

Please arrange to publish the information in a format acceptable to the Secretary for at least 30 days in advance. Can you send us confirmation that we can use in the transcript as a public hearing exhibit?

An electronic filing will be made within the statutorily required 7 days. Thanks for your help.

Ctours Dougle

Sinceret

Steven Porch
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