

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
Contact E-mail sporch@arkansasedc.com
Contact Phone 501-682-2432

Name of Rule SUPPLEMENTAL ARKANSAS RURAL CONNECT CORONAVIRUS RULE
Newspaper Name DEMOCRAT GAZETTE
Date of Publishing OCTOBER 7, 2020
Final Date for Public Comment NOVEMBER 7, 2020
Location and Time of Public Meeting ZOOM MEETING SEE ATTACHED NOTICE

FILED
AR REGISTER
2020 OCT -6 AM 9:01
SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS
BY



Asa Hutchinson
GOVERNOR

Michael Preston
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

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

Telephone

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Porch'.

Steven Porch
Chief Legal Officer
Arkansas Department of Commerce



Asa Hutchinson
GOVERNOR

Michael Preston
SECRETARY 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.

Sincerely,

Steven Porch
Chief Legal Officer
Arkansas Department of Commerce
501-682-1121

SPorch@ArkansasEDC.com