

95th Arkansas General Assembly/Wastewater/Sewer Retail Providers: Legislation Introduced to Provide Oversight



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03/17/2025

House Bill 1701 has been introduced that would add a Subchapter 1 to Arkansas Title 14, Chapter 239 titled:

Oversight of Wastewater and Sewer Retail Providers.

The Bill's sponsors include:

- Representative Gonzales.
- Representative L. Johnson.
- Senator G. Stubblefield.

The stated intent of the Bill is to:

...improve the operations and infrastructures of wastewater and sewer systems in the state similar to the reform of retail water providers by Acts 2021, No. 605.

Cited is a need for wastewater and sewer systems to have rates that support capital improvement needs.

The Bill is applicable to a "provider" which is defined to mean:

...any public or private provider of a sewage collection service or sewage treatment service.

Providers in fiscal distress are a focus of this Bill. Therefore, the legislation addresses issues such as:

- Improvement plans.
- Completion of rates studies.
- Noncompliance with Arkansas Natural Resource Commission rules.
- Implementation of rate increases.
- List of providers in fiscal distress.

Providers are also required to :

- Develop training for leaders of the county or municipality that the provider serves.
- Provide suitable compensation and incentives to encourage individuals to consider a career with the provider.
- Promote the recruitment, education, and licensing of employees of the provider.

- Ensure that a majority of the members of the provider's board receive a minimum of eight hours of provider training as promulgated by the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission.

A copy of House Bill 1701 can be downloaded [here](#).