

Consolidation of Arkansas Cabinet-Level Agencies/92nd Arkansas General Assembly: Department of Energy and Environmental Bill Filed



Walter Wright, Jr.
wwright@mwlaw.com
(501) 688.8839

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House Bill 1215 ("H.B. 1215") was filed that would create the Department of Energy and Environment ("DEE").

Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson announced earlier this fall his proposal to consolidate cabinet-level departments from 42 to 15. (See previous post [here](#).)

The Governor describes this action as the "first comprehensive efforts to reform state government since 1972."

Governor Hutchinson's proposal included combining several Arkansas environmental/energy/natural resources agencies into the DEE. H.B. 1215 is intended to provide the legislative authority to accomplish this objective.

State agencies or entities that would be consolidated into DEE include:

- Advisory Committee on Petroleum Storage Tanks
- Division of Environmental Quality (otherwise known as the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality)
- Arkansas Geological Survey
- Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission
- Arkansas Public Service Commission
- Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board
- Nutrient Water Quality Trading Advisory Panel
- Oil and Gas Commission

H.B. 1215 states that the agencies and entities transferred would retain their specified statutory duties. Further, a Secretary of DEE would be the Executive Head of the Cabinet and appointed by the Governor (unless otherwise specified by law).

A link to the 256-page bill can be found [here](#).