1	State of Arkansas	*As Engrossed: S3/30/15*
2	90th General Assembly	A Bill
3	Regular Session, 2015	SENATE BILL 983

4

5   By: Senator J. Woods

6   *By: Representative Neal*

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8   **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9   *AN ACT TO PROVIDE TRANSPARENCY AND OPEN ACCESS TO*

10   *PUBLIC RECORDS AND DATA; TO CREATE THE OPEN DATA AND*

11   *TRANSPARENCY TASK FORCE TO DETERMINE THE BEST*

12   *PRACTICES FOR THE STATE TO ACHIEVE THE MOST EFFICIENT*

13   *SYSTEM FOR MAINTAINING AND DELIVERING THE STATE'S*

14   *PUBLIC RECORDS AND DATA; TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR*

15   *LEGISLATION TO ACHIEVE A COMPREHENSIVE OPEN DATA AND*

16   *TRANSPARENCY ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

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19   **Subtitle**

20   *TO CREATE THE OPEN DATA AND TRANSPARENCY*

21   *TASK FORCE TO DETERMINE THE BEST*

22   *PRACTICES FOR THE STATE TO ACHIEVE THE*

23   *MOST EFFICIENT SYSTEM FOR MAINTAINING AND*

24   *DELIVERING THE STATE'S PUBLIC RECORDS AND*

25   *DATA.*

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28   BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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30   *SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Open Data and Transparency Task Force.*

31   *(a) As used in this section, "state agency" means an agency,*

32   *institution, authority, department, board, commission, bureau, council, or*

33   *other agency of the State of Arkansas supported by cash funds or the*

34   *appropriation of state or federal funds.*

35   *(b)(1) The General Assembly finds that:*

36   *(A) State agencies contain great amounts of valuable*

1   *information and reports on all aspects of life for the citizens of this*

2   *state, including without limitation health, business, public safety, labor,*

3   *and transportation data;*

4   *   (B)   The tremendous amount of data maintained by state*

5   *agencies can result in the duplication of efforts, data, records, and parts*

6   *of data and records that may result in the maintenance of inconsistent data*

7   *and records concerning the same citizen;*

8   *   (C)   The lack of a quick and efficient delivery system to*

9   *respond to legislative and executive branch inquiries is harmful to the*

10 *policy-making process and ultimately costs taxpayers money;*

11 *   (D)   Progressive states have evolved to become data-driven*

12 *governments that use data as a strategic asset to improve the delivery of*

13 *services to the state's citizens and to become more efficient stewards of*

14 *citizens' data;*

15 *   (E)   Ensuring the quality and consistency of public data is*

16 *essential to maintaining the data's value and utility;*

17 *   (F)   New information technology has fundamentally changed*

18 *the way people search for and expect to find information and can aggregate*

19 *large quantities of data to allow the state to provide better information to*

20 *citizens with increasing efficiency and thoroughness; and*

21 *   (G)   The state should:*

22 *   (i)   Evaluate ways to appropriately, efficiently, and*

23 *securely share data between and within state agencies to allow for quicker,*

24 *more impactful cross-agency analysis to allow policymakers to make quicker,*

25 *more informed decisions; and*

26 *   (ii)   Use the innovations in information technology*

27 *to enhance public access to public data to make the state more transparent*

28 *and to promote public trust while eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse in the*

29 *execution and delivery of government services.*

30 *   (2)   It is the intent of the General Assembly by this act to*

31 *enable the Open Data and Transparency Task Force to:*

32 *   (A)   Evaluate, study, and address the findings contained in*

33 *subdivision (b)(1) of this section;*

34 *   (B)   Determine the best practices for the state to achieve*

35 *the most efficient system for maintaining and delivering the state's public*

36 *records and data to public officials, government entities, and private*

1   *citizens; and*
2   *(C)   Recommend specific solutions and legislation for an*
3   *efficient open data and transparency law based upon open data policy*
4   *principles for state agencies to maintain and share public data that is*
5   *owned, controlled, collected, or maintained by state agencies.*
6   *(c)   The Open Data and Transparency Task Force is created.*
7   *(d)   The task force shall consist of the following members:*
8   *(1)   One (1) member appointed by the Governor;*
9   *(2)   One (1) member appointed by the Speaker of the House of*
10 *Representatives;*
11   *(3)   One (1) member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the*
12 *Senate;*
13   *(4)   The Chair of the House Committee on State Agencies and*
14 *Governmental Affairs or a member of the House Committee on State Agencies and*
15 *Governmental Affairs designated by the chair;*
16   *(5)   The Chair of the Senate Committee on State Agencies and*
17 *Governmental Affairs or a member of the Senate Committee on State Agencies*
18 *and Governmental Affairs designated by the chair;*
19   *(6)   The House Cochair of the Joint Committee on Advanced*
20 *Communications and Information Technology or a House member of the Joint*
21 *Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology designated by*
22 *the House cochair;*
23   *(7)   The Senate Cochair of the Joint Committee on Advanced*
24 *Communications and Information Technology or a Senate member of the Joint*
25 *Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology designated by*
26 *the Senate cochair;*
27   *(8)   The Director of the Department of Finance and Administration*
28 *or his or her designee;*
29   *(9)   The Director of the Department of Health or his or her*
30 *designee;*
31   *(10)   The Director of the Department of Human Services or his or*
32 *her designee;*
33   *(11)   The Director of the Department of Education or his or her*
34 *designee;*
35   *(12)   The Director of the Department of Higher Education or his*
36 *or her designee;*

1   *(13)   The Director of the Department of Correction or his or her*
2   *designee;*
3   *(14)   The Director of the Department of Community Correction or*
4   *his or her designee;*
5   *(15)   The Director of the Department of Information Systems or*
6   *his or her designee; and*
7   *(16)   The Attorney General or his or her designee.*
8   *(e)   A vacancy on the task force shall be filled by the appointing*
9   *authority for the unexpired portion of the term in which it occurs.*
10   *(f)(1)   The Governor shall designate his or her appointee to the task*
11 *force to:*
12   *(A)   Call the first meeting of the task force on or before*
13 *September 1, 2015; and*
14   *(B)   Serve as chair.*
15   *(2)   At the first meeting, the members of the task force shall*
16 *elect from its membership a vice chair.*
17   *(3)   The task force shall conduct its meetings in Pulaski County*
18 *at the State Capitol or via teleconference or web conference as technology*
19 *permits and as desired to allow for scheduling flexibility for its members.*
20   *(4)   The task force shall meet at least bimonthly or as decided*
21 *upon by the task force.*
22   *(g)(1)   A majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a*
23 *quorum for transacting any business of the task force.*
24   *(2)   An affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum present shall*
25 *be necessary to transact business.*
26   *(h)   The Department of Information Systems shall provide staff for the*
27 *task force.*
28   *(i)   The task force shall:*
29   *(1)   Evaluate, study, and address the findings contained in*
30 *subdivision (b)(1) of this section;*
31   *(2)   Determine the best practices for the state to achieve the*
32 *most efficient system for maintaining and delivering the state's public*
33 *records and data to public officials, government entities, and private*
34 *citizens; and*
35   *(3)   Recommend specific solutions and legislation for an*
36 *efficient open data and transparency law based upon open data policy*

1   *principles for state agencies to maintain and share public data that is*

2   *owned, controlled, collected, or maintained by state agencies.*

3   *(j) The task force shall provide a written report by December 31,*

4   *2016, to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the*

5   *Speaker of the House of Representatives containing the results of its*

6   *findings and activities and its recommendations, including recommendations*

7   *for proposed legislation.*

8   *(k) The task force expires on January 1, 2017.*

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10   */s/J. Woods*

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