ARKANSAS INC

Hugh McDonald
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Clint O'Neal
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
ARKANSAS ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

February 29, 2024

Senator Kim Hammer, Senate Chair
Representative Brian Evans, House Chair
Administrative Rules Subcommittee

ATTN:
Rebecca Miller-Rice
Administrator, Administrative Rules Review
Bureau of Legislative Research
One Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

Re: Act 595 Status Report – Arkansas Economic Development Commission

Dear Co-Chairs:

As required by Act 595 of 2021, the Arkansas Economic Development Commission submits a monthly status report concerning the promulgation of rules pursuant to newly enacted laws of the 94th General Assembly:

1. Tourism Development Act Rule
Act 652 of 2023 created the Natural State Initiative Pilot Program. The Act required the agency to establish the Natural State Opportunity Zones through the administrative rule process. AEDC's rules administering the Tourism Development Incentive have been amended to incorporate the changes.
Status: Rule promulgation has been completed.

2. Consolidated Incentives Act Rule
Act 834 of 2023 amended the Consolidated Incentives Act of 2003. AEDC will amend the program's existing rule to incorporate a change to the definition of an eligible business.
Status: The agency is in the process of drafting an amended rule.

3. Arkansas Business and Technology Accelerator Grant Program
Act 834 of 2023 amended the Arkansas Business and Technology Accelerator Grant Program. The agency will amend the program's existing rule to incorporate a change to the definition of an eligible applicant.
Status: Waiting to receive Governor's approval to promulgate proposed rule.

4. Digital Product & Motion Picture Industry Development Act of 2009
Act 517 of 2023 amends the existing Digital Product & Motion Picture Incentive Program to make various changes to the tax incentive provided for production and postproductions costs for approved film projects. The agency will amend the program's existing rule to incorporate these changes.
Status: Waiting to receive Governor's approval to promulgate proposed rule.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the promulgation of these rules.

Sincerely,

Allison Plowman Hatfield
Commerce, Chief of Staff
AEDC, General Counsel
Allison.hatfield@arkansas.gov
501-647-7443