

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED RULE CHANGES:

RULES PERTAINING TO WATER OPERATOR LICENSING

The Rules Pertaining To Water Operator Licensing are the basis of the program for drinking water system operators in the state of Arkansas to become licensed and deemed competent to operate water systems. A state water operator licensing program is also necessary to fully comply with requirements of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Modification of this rule is necessary in order to comply with laws that were passed affecting licensure during the 2019 state legislative session. Those laws are indicated as follows.

Act 315 requires that modified rules and regulations uniformly utilize the word “rule” rather than “rule” and “regulation” being used interchangeably and perhaps creating confusion.

Act 426 concerns issuing of temporary or provisional licenses and to reduce barriers to entrance of qualified works to the labor market.

Act 820 concerns the occupational licensing of active duty service members, returning military veterans, and their spouses. The requirements of the law require an expedited process of issuing a license if the active duty service member, returning military veteran, or spouse, holds an equivalent occupational license in another state, territory, or district of the United States.

Act 990 regarding criminal background concerns for professions and occupations to obtain consistency regarding criminal background reviews and disqualifying offenses for licensure.

Act 1011 concerns licensing rules when a license is to be reinstated or issued based upon reciprocity. The law places limits upon the requirements that can be placed upon a person petitioning for a reinstatement of their license or issuance of a license based upon reciprocity.