

# Arkansas ANCHOR Authority Act

Public review draft with audience guidance and section inspection prompts

Proposal material for review. Not filed legislation. Review by counsel, fiscal, agency, accessibility, privacy, clinical, Medicaid, transit, procurement, and community reviewers is required before filing or implementation.

## How to read this Act

The Act is presented section by section. Each section includes a plain-language meaning and a review focus before the statutory text.

## Front Matter and Act Title

Plain meaning: Names the proposed Act and summarizes the full statewide ANCHOR system in legislative title form.

Review focus: Check whether the title is accurate, broad enough, and not overclaiming results before the program is tested.

PART VIII - Full Legislative Language Reference

This part is written in legislative format for counsel and policy review. It is intended to serve as an expanded legal reference while preserving the reader-facing explanation in the earlier parts of the document.

State of Arkansas

95th General Assembly

Regular Session, 2026

HOUSE/SENATE BILL \_\_\_\_\_

By: [Sponsor Name]

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS ANCHOR AUTHORITY; TO ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE AUTISM AND NEURODIVERGENCE COMMUNITY HEALTH, OUTREACH, AND RESPONSE SYSTEM; TO ESTABLISH ANCHOR AS A UNIFIED ACCESS, TRAINING, LOGISTICS, DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE, FIELD DELIVERY, HEALTH-ACCESS COORDINATION, TRAUMA-INFORMED SUPPORT, PUBLIC EDUCATION, RESEARCH, EVALUATION, WORKFORCE, TOURISM ACCESS, BUSINESS READINESS, AND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACCESS OPERATING SYSTEM; TO AUTHORIZE THE CENTRAL ANCHOR OFFICE, REGIONAL DOCKS, ACCESS VANS, MOBILE ACCESS VEHICLES, COMMUNITY ANCHOR SITES, THE DIGITAL ACCESS CORE, THE ANCHOR ACCESS PORTAL, THE PASSport AND VOLUNTARY ACCESS PASSPORT, THE ANCHOR ACADEMY, RECIPES FOR SUCCESS, THE ANCHOR ACCESS EXCHANGE, THE SERVICE DESERT HEAT MAP, THE SERVICE DESERT ROUTING ENGINE, THE PROVIDER NETWORK, PROVISIONAL FUNCTIONAL SUPPORT, CRISIS PREVENTION, LIFELONG SUPPORT COORDINATION, AGING CAREGIVER TRANSITION PLANNING, THE MOBILE TECH LIBRARY, LENDING DOCKS, THE SENSORY HAVEN STATE PARKS INITIATIVE, THE ARKANSAS NEURODIVERSITY-READY BUSINESS CERTIFICATION, THE ACCESS ATLAS, QUIET HOURS CALENDAR, CALL CENTER, DATA CENTER, CENTER FOR RESEARCH IMPROVEMENT, TASAT INITIATIVE, APPROVED ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY MODULES, AI-GOVERNED SUPPORT TOOLS, GRANTS, CONTRACTS, RULEMAKING, AND INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS; TO AUTHORIZE COORDINATION WITH THE ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION, THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, HERITAGE AND TOURISM, THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, UAMS, THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS SYSTEM, AND OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERS; TO REQUIRE USE OF EXISTING PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE WHERE PRACTICABLE; TO AUTHORIZE CONTRACTS, GRANTS, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, VEHICLE UPFIT AGREEMENTS, AND FEDERALLY SUPPORTED TRANSIT PARTNERSHIPS WITH

EXISTING TRANSIT PROVIDERS; TO AUTHORIZE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION FORMULA GRANTS FOR RURAL AREAS UNDER 49 U.S.C. § 5311 AND RELATED TRANSIT FUNDING WHEN LAWFUL; TO PROVIDE PHASED FISCAL SCALING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION WITHOUT A HARD STATUTORY EIGHT MILLION DOLLAR CAP; TO ESTABLISH CONSENT-CONTROLLED DATA GOVERNANCE; TO PRESERVE PRIVACY, CONSENT, ACCESSIBILITY, NONDISCRIMINATION, AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS ANCHOR AUTHORITY AND A UNIFIED STATEWIDE AUTISM AND NEURODIVERGENCE SUPPORT SYSTEM THAT GIVES ARKANSANS ONE PLACE TO DOCK FOR SUPPORT WHILE PRESERVING RIGHTS, PRIVACY, CONSENT, ACCESSIBILITY, PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY, AND LEGISLATIVE BUDGET REVIEW.

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

## **SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative purpose and public intent.**

Plain meaning: States why the Act exists and the public limits of the proposal.

Review focus: Check clarity, rights preservation, no diagnosis barrier for general access, and no automated final decisions.

(a) The purpose of this act is to establish ANCHOR as a statewide public access, support, training, research, and coordination system for autistic and neurodivergent Arkansans, families, caregivers, providers, schools, employers, public workers, businesses, parks, tourists, researchers, and communities.

(b) ANCHOR is designed to reduce confusion caused by disconnected systems. It shall create one understandable point of entry while preserving the duties and authority of existing public agencies, licensed professionals, schools, providers, courts, emergency responders, and benefit systems.

(c) The act shall be implemented with hope, dignity, practicality, and public accountability. The autistic or neurodivergent person is not the problem being fixed. The support environment, communication method, timing, and public response are the parts that must be improved.

(d) The act recognizes that autism and neurodivergence can affect children, youth, adults, older adults, families, workers, students, visitors, and caregivers; and that support needs may be hidden by masking, speech, employment, intelligence, social copying, or prior misdiagnosis.

(e) This act does not establish a mandatory registry, does not require a diagnosis for public information or nonclinical support, and does not authorize AI or automated tools to make final legal, clinical, educational, benefit, emergency, law enforcement, housing, employment, or insurance decisions.

## **SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 20 is amended to add an additional chapter to read as follows:**

Plain meaning: Places the proposed authority structure into Arkansas Code Title 20.

Review focus: Check statutory placement and whether counsel should adjust chapter numbering or codification.

CHAPTER \_\_ - ARKANSAS ANCHOR AUTHORITY

### **Subchapter 1 - General Provisions and Definitions**

Plain meaning: Defines ANCHOR, the Authority, the Access Portal, PASSport, Academy, Docks, mobile access, and related terms.

Review focus: Check whether terms are understandable to the public and precise enough for legal review.

#### **20-\_\_-101. Title.**

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the Arkansas ANCHOR Authority Act.

## **20-\_\_-102. Meaning of ANCHOR.**

ANCHOR means Autism and Neurodivergence Community Health, Outreach, and Response. The Authority may recommend alternative public, research, or campaign names for review, including Arkansas Neurodiversity Center for Health, Outreach, and Research; Autism Network for Care, Health, Outreach, and Resources; and Autistic Network of Creative Humans Observing Reality. A different statutory name may be adopted only by law.

## **20-\_\_-103. Definitions.**

Definitions under this chapter include Access Atlas, Access Exchange, Access Passport, PASSport, Access Portal, Access Van, Academy, approved technology module, Arkansas Neurodiversity-Ready Business Certification, Authority, authorized representative, business readiness partner, call center, Center for Research Improvement, community anchor site, communication access, data center, Digital Access Core, federal rural transit funding, field operation, health-access coordination, Central ANCHOR Office Center, Mobile Access Vehicle, Mobile Tech Library, neurodivergent individual, Neurodiversity Grand Challenge Initiative, PASSport profile, Provisional Functional Support, Regional Dock, Sensory Haven State Parks Initiative, Service Desert Heat Map, Service Desert Routing Engine, support profile, TASAT Initiative, transportation partner, trauma-informed mobile support, visitor access pathway, and workforce development.

## **20-\_\_-104. Construction.**

This chapter shall be liberally construed to support public access, disability rights, communication access, sensory access, rural access, family support, neurodivergent adult support, research translation, workforce development, technology governance, and public accountability. The listing of specific systems or tools shall not prevent the Authority from developing additional lawful supports.

## **Subchapter 2 - Creation, Independence, Governance, and Central Office**

Plain meaning: Creates the Arkansas ANCHOR Authority, board structure, advisory councils, and Central ANCHOR Office.

Review focus: Check governance balance, public accountability, lived-experience representation, and agency coordination.

## **20-\_\_-201. Creation.**

There is created the Arkansas ANCHOR Authority as an independent public instrumentality of the State of Arkansas with statewide jurisdiction to carry out this chapter.

## **20-\_\_-202. Independence and coordination.**

The Authority is not created within a single existing department. It may coordinate with the Department of Human Services, Department of Health, Department of Education, Department of Public Safety, Arkansas Department of Transportation, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Department of Finance and Administration, Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism, institutions of higher education, local governments, schools, healthcare providers, transportation providers, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other partners through lawful agreements.

## **20-\_\_-203. Governing board and advisory councils.**

The board should include autistic and neurodivergent adults, family and caregiver representatives, disability rights advocates, rural representatives, healthcare, education, public safety, workforce, business, tourism, accessibility, privacy, cybersecurity, research, transportation, and fiscal expertise. Advisory councils may include lived-experience, parent and caregiver, youth, adult, AAC, rural, public safety, school, health, workforce, parks, business, research ethics, and technology governance councils.

## **20-\_\_-204. The Central ANCHOR Office and central office.**

The Central ANCHOR Office shall serve as the central office and statewide nexus for interdisciplinary research, system oversight, policy development, data governance, training support, call center coordination, field operations, resource allocation, public education, record integrity, quality improvement, and legislative reporting. It may house or coordinate the Center for Research Improvement, call center, data center, Academy studio, content review, privacy office, public education office, and field operations command.

## **Subchapter 3 - No-Wrong-Door Access and Support Pathways**

Plain meaning: Creates broad entry points for people who do not know which agency, program, diagnosis, or form applies.

Review focus: Check whether public access is clear without implying ANCHOR replaces existing agencies or eligibility systems.

### **20-\_\_-301. No-wrong-door access.**

A person may seek general ANCHOR information, communication support, PASSport assistance, health-access preparation, training access, public education materials, or resource coordination without first knowing the correct agency, program, diagnosis, provider type, benefit, form, or terminology.

### **20-\_\_-302. Neurotype and functional support pathways.**

The Authority may develop support pathways for autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, dyspraxia, Tourette syndrome or tic differences, sensory processing differences, communication differences, intellectual disability, developmental disability, executive-function differences, auditory and visual processing differences, acquired neurocognitive differences, trauma-informed access needs, adult autism, late-identified adults, high-masking individuals, nonspeaking and unreliably speaking people, AAC users, transition-age youth, aging caregivers, parents, workers, students, and visitors.

### **20-\_\_-303. Behavioral interpretation safeguards.**

ANCHOR training and public materials shall distinguish, without requiring unlicensed diagnosis, between tantrums, meltdowns, shutdowns, panic attacks, PTSD, CPTSD, defiance, capacity limits, overload, pain, trauma triggers, communication breakdown, and environmental mismatch.

### **20-\_\_-304. Provisional Functional Support.**

The Authority may provide time-limited nonclinical support based on documented functional support needs while formal diagnosis, eligibility review, provider evaluation, school review, housing review, benefits review, or service authorization is pending.

## **Subchapter 4 - PASSport, Access Passport, Portal, and Data Fields**

Plain meaning: Authorizes the voluntary support profile and the public digital access core.

Review focus: Check consent, privacy, access, revocation, emergency boundaries, and non-registry language.

### **20-\_\_-401. Digital Access Core and Access Portal.**

The Authority shall establish a Digital Access Core and Access Portal to support public information, intake, PASSport functions, role-based portals, training, resource coordination, forms, call center operations, Provider Network, Access Exchange, Service Desert tools, reporting, privacy, consent management, audit logging, and accessible public communication.

### **20-\_\_-402. PASSport and voluntary Access Passport.**

The Authority may operate the PASSport, also known as the Access Passport, as a voluntary Personal Access, Sensory, and Support Passport. The PASSport may include communication, sensory, support, safety, health-access, school, work,

transport, parks, public-space, emergency, and caregiver fields selected by the individual or authorized representative.

### **20-\_\_-403. Required data-field categories.**

The Authority shall establish controlled data-field categories for identity, contact, language, communication access, sensory profile, capacity and demand, consent, safety, crisis, health-access coordination, education, workplace, family and caregiver support, transportation, technology, service history, referral status, outcome tracking, accessibility needs, privacy settings, and correction history.

### **20-\_\_-404. Consent and privacy.**

PASSport participation shall be voluntary. Protected ANCHOR data shall not be sold, used for unrelated advertising, used for punitive surveillance, or disclosed except as authorized by consent, authorized representative action, emergency exception, court order, research authorization, required reporting law, or other applicable law.

## **Subchapter 5 - AI, Analytics, Automated Reporting, and Continuous Improvement**

Plain meaning: Allows decision-support tools while prohibiting AI from making final rights-affecting decisions.

Review focus: Check high-stakes boundaries, human review, bias review, accessibility review, and public reporting.

### **20-\_\_-501. Authorized AI support functions.**

The Authority may use AI-assisted tools for plain-language translation, summarization, accessibility review, resource matching, training personalization, deidentified analytics, call center support, report drafting, service-gap detection, and content improvement.

### **20-\_\_-502. Prohibited AI decisions.**

AI or automated systems shall not make final decisions regarding diagnosis, medical necessity, Medicaid eligibility or service authorization, special education eligibility or placement, public benefits, housing eligibility, employment eligibility, law enforcement action, emergency detention, court action, insurance coverage, or other legal rights.

### **20-\_\_-503. Human oversight and risk management.**

AI tools shall be governed by human review, audit logging, bias and accessibility review, correction procedures, data minimization, cybersecurity review, vendor disclosure, record integrity, community review when practicable, and annual reporting.

### **20-\_\_-504. Continuous improvement.**

The Authority may use deidentified or aggregate data, feedback, complaint trends, training results, service-gap data, follow-up outcomes, and research findings to update Academy content, scripts, public materials, PASSport fields, routing rules, resource directories, and implementation procedures.

## **Subchapter 6 - ANCHOR Academy and Parent/Caregiver Training**

Plain meaning: Creates role-based training for families, caregivers, public workers, schools, responders, businesses, parks, and implementation leads.

Review focus: Check whether training covers practical support, de-escalation, communication access, and role boundaries.

### **20-\_\_-601. ANCHOR Academy.**

The Academy shall provide role-based training, certification, public education, seminars, motivational speaking systems, family education, employer education, school training, responder training, parks and tourism training, business training, mobile staff training, and implementation-lead training.

## **20-\_\_-602. Parent and caregiver curriculum.**

The Authority shall develop parent and caregiver training that differentiates parental roles from caregiver roles and teaches support-aware responses, deprogramming of harmful assumptions, communication access, sensory awareness, capacity limits, meltdown and shutdown support, trauma-informed support, repair after escalation, neurodivergent parent support, and school/workplace preparation.

## **20-\_\_-603. Heuristics and assumptions.**

Training shall explain how neurotypical assumptions and learned responses may obstruct understanding of neurodivergent individuals. Training shall teach adults to pause before interpreting behavior as disrespect, manipulation, laziness, attention seeking, or defiance and to consider overload, communication mismatch, pain, trauma, demand, transition, fatigue, hunger, or fear.

## **20-\_\_-604. Academy credentials.**

Credentials may include Public Awareness, Communication Access, Sensory Access, Parent and Caregiver Support, Neurodivergent Parent Support, School Support, SRO and Responder Support, Healthcare Access, Business Readiness, Parks and Tourism Access, Mobile Field Operations, PASSport Support, Trauma-Informed Access, and Implementation Lead.

# **Subchapter 7 - Trauma-Informed Services, Mobile Outreach, and Safe Transportation**

Plain meaning: Authorizes lawful mobile and field supports, safe transportation coordination, telehealth support, and crisis-prevention planning.

Review focus: Check clinical boundaries, qualified personnel, safe transport protocols, and emergency limits.

## **20-\_\_-701. Trauma-informed mobile services.**

Access Vans and Mobile Access Vehicles may host or coordinate trauma-informed support, licensed therapy services, telebehavioral health access, brief stabilization support, family consultation, caregiver support, peer support, crisis prevention planning, and referral handoffs when lawful, funded, clinically appropriate, and staffed by qualified personnel.

## **20-\_\_-702. In-person and come-to-you support.**

The Authority may provide field-based, in-home, school-based, community-based, park-based, workplace-based, and mobile support when appropriate to reduce barriers created by transportation, rural distance, sensory overload, communication barriers, caregiver strain, disability, or crisis risk.

## **20-\_\_-703. Safe transportation protocols.**

The Authority may coordinate safe transportation to diagnosis appointments, screening appointments, consultations, therapy appointments, health-access appointments, Regional Docks, community anchor sites, and emergency interventions when lawful. Transportation protocols shall address consent, driver training, sensory conditions, communication supports, privacy, safety, emergency escalation, caregiver participation, and handoff documentation.

# **Subchapter 8 - Research, Center for Research Improvement, and TASAT Initiative**

Plain meaning: Creates a research translation lane with safeguards and non-diagnostic limits for TASAT.

Review focus: Check research ethics, consent, privacy, validation language, and public benefit.

## **20-\_\_-801. Center for Research Improvement.**

The Authority may establish or coordinate a Center for Research Improvement within or through the Central ANCHOR Office. The center may translate research into public practice, evaluate implementation, maintain the supporting record register, coordinate research partnerships, review content, support deidentified datasets, and produce public reports.

### **20-\_\_-802. TASAT Initiative.**

The Authority may establish the TASAT / Autism Insight Support Translation Initiative, known as TASAT, as a research, modeling, content-curation, and functional-support translation initiative. TASAT shall not be presented as a validated diagnostic instrument unless validated and approved under applicable research, clinical, ethical, and professional standards.

### **20-\_\_-803. Research safeguards.**

Research participation shall be voluntary and shall not condition access to public support. Research shall comply with applicable human-subjects protections, informed consent, privacy law, accessibility, community review, deidentification standards, conflict-of-interest safeguards, and public reporting requirements.

## **Subchapter 9 - Field Operations, Docks, Vans, MAVs, and Transit Funding**

Plain meaning: Authorizes regional access points, mobile access, vehicle upfit agreements, and transit partnerships before owned fleet expansion.

Review focus: Check co-location, rural access, transit funding, route logic, and cost control.

### **20-\_\_-901. Regional Docks.**

The Authority may establish Regional Docks, Dock Lite, Dock Standard, Dock Plus, partner sites, and community anchor sites. Co-location in existing public or partner infrastructure shall be prioritized when practicable.

### **20-\_\_-902. Access Vans and Mobile Access Vehicles.**

Mobile access capacity shall prioritize grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, vehicle upfit agreements, shared-service agreements, and federally supported transit partnerships with existing transportation partners before Authority-owned fleets.

### **20-\_\_-903. FTA Section 5311.**

The Authority may coordinate with ARDOT and eligible transit partners to pursue Federal Transit Administration Formula Grants for Rural Areas under 49 U.S.C. § 5311 and related programs. Federal participation may be up to eighty percent for eligible planning and capital expenses, up to fifty percent for eligible operating assistance, and up to eighty percent for eligible ADA non-fixed-route paratransit expenses when applicable.

### **20-\_\_-904. Mobile equipment and services.**

Mobile units may carry sensory kits, communication boards, secure devices, PASSport support tools, telehealth equipment, therapy support space when lawful, privacy screens, printed materials, safe transportation procedures, and Mobile Tech Library items.

## **Subchapter 10 - Central ANCHOR Office, Call Center, Data Center, and System Oversight**

Plain meaning: Creates multi-channel access, call center functions, secure data support, and statewide resource coordination.

Review focus: Check access through phone and non-phone methods, privacy, security, and reporting duties.

### **20-\_\_-1001. Call center.**

The Authority may operate a call center and multi-channel access hub for phone, text, chat, email, web, paper, partner referral, and staff-assisted intake. Call center staff shall be trained in communication access, sensory distress, trauma-informed response, privacy, consent, crisis boundaries, and warm handoffs.

### **20-\_\_-1002. Data center.**

The Authority may operate or contract for a secure data center or data processing hub to support the Digital Access Core, PASSport, Access Exchange, Academy records, service routing, research, public reporting, and continuous improvement.

### **20-\_\_-1003. Strategic planning and resource allocation.**

The Central ANCHOR Office shall coordinate statewide resource allocation, regional planning, service desert response, mobile route support, Academy deployment, provider network development, public education, fiscal review, and legislative reporting.

## **Subchapter 11 - Public Spaces, Parks, Tourism, and Sensory Haven**

Plain meaning: Extends ANCHOR into parks, tourism, public spaces, quiet supports, communication boards, and visitor preparation.

Review focus: Check public-space practicality, universal design, verification, and partner responsibilities.

### **20-\_\_-1101. Sensory Haven State Parks Initiative.**

The Authority may coordinate with the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism to support sensory kits, communication boards, quiet zones, visitor preparation guides, trail sensory information, staff training, accessible tourism materials, and pilot sites within Arkansas state parks and tourism destinations.

### **20-\_\_-1102. Access Atlas and Quiet Hours Calendar.**

The Authority may maintain an Access Atlas and Quiet Hours Calendar listing participating businesses, public spaces, parks, museums, libraries, clinics, stores, theaters, and community sites that offer sensory-aware hours, quiet spaces, communication boards, accessibility supports, staff training, or related services.

### **20-\_\_-1103. Public spaces for everyone.**

Public space improvements shall use universal design principles and shall be framed as useful to autistic and neurodivergent people, disabled people, older adults, children, families, veterans, people with PTSD, people with dementia, people with migraines, people using AAC, and the general public.

## **Subchapter 12 - Business Development, Jobs, and Neurodiversity-Ready Certification**

Plain meaning: Creates business training, workplace readiness, customer access, and neuro-inclusive employment pathways.

Review focus: Check incentive boundaries, certification integrity, workplace rights, and coordination with existing economic/workforce agencies.

### **20-\_\_-1201. Business certification.**

The Authority may create the Arkansas Neurodiversity-Ready Business Certification in coordination with AEDC, DFA when tax incentives are involved, chambers of commerce, workforce boards, local economic development partners, and business readiness partners.

### **20-\_\_-1202. Business requirements.**

Certification may require ANCHOR Academy training, sensory and communication access practices, workplace accommodation practices, customer service supports, complaint response, quiet hours, written instructions, hiring

pathway improvements, and physical space adaptations when practicable.

### **20-\_\_-1203. Jobs and underutilized sectors.**

The Authority may support employment pathways in state government, public service, libraries, parks, museums, tourism, digital accessibility, data quality, QA testing, cybersecurity support, records management, logistics, inventory, animal care, skilled trades, manufacturing, IT support, peer support, community health work, research assistance, creative industries, hospitality, and remote/hybrid work.

### **20-\_\_-1204. Economic incentives.**

The Authority may recommend or coordinate grants, training funds, public distinctions, procurement preference recommendations when lawful, and tax incentives only when separately authorized and administered by the responsible state entity.

## **Subchapter 13 - Mobile Tech Library and Approved Tools**

Plain meaning: Authorizes lending docks and trial access for AAC, sensory tools, communication tools, haptic tools, and related supports.

Review focus: Check privacy on shared devices, procurement neutrality, accessibility, and trial-before-purchase support.

### **20-\_\_-1301. Mobile Tech Library.**

The Authority may establish a Mobile Tech Library through Lending Docks to let families and individuals try AAC devices, tablets with communication software, sensory vests, focus tools, fidget tools, haptic devices, visual timers, communication boards, adaptive input devices, and other approved tools before purchase, school review, Medicaid, insurance, charitable funding, or workplace accommodation requests.

### **20-\_\_-1302. Approved technology modules.**

Approved modules may include MICA AiOS, MICA STUDIO, Signal Sense, Tone Bridge, fidget tools, haptic and tactile tools, safety cards, communication boards, plain-language tools, translation tools, summarization tools, field tools, and future assistive technologies.

### **20-\_\_-1303. Device privacy.**

Shared devices shall use privacy controls, wiping procedures, app permissions management, password controls, inventory records, sanitation procedures, and user instructions before and after checkout.

## **Subchapter 14 - Grand Challenge, Innovation, and Public Awareness**

Plain meaning: Creates public education, responsible innovation, and reviewable public-interest pilot work.

Review focus: Check rights preservation, public transparency, and no unsupported outcome claims.

### **20-\_\_-1401. Grand Challenge Initiative.**

The Authority may establish the Arkansas Neurodiversity Grand Challenge Initiative as a public, transparent, ethical, rights-preserving, civilian, nonsecret initiative to improve autism and neurodivergence support systems, rural access, assistive communication, public education, emergency response, provider education, workforce, technology, and data governance.

### **20-\_\_-1402. Public awareness program.**

The Authority may operate public service announcements, radio reads, press kits, media briefings, posters, school campaigns, workplace campaigns, parks and tourism campaigns, business campaigns, seminars, public speaking events, and community education under Recipes for Success.

## **20-\_\_-1403. Current supportive examples.**

Public materials may reference current models such as sensory-friendly retail hours, sensory-friendly films, sensory-inclusive certifications, museum sensory maps, sensory bags, quiet spaces, accessible park infrastructure, and universal design programs as examples for Arkansas adaptation.

## **Subchapter 15 - Funding, No Cap, and Fiscal Controls**

Plain meaning: Authorizes funding sources and fiscal review while avoiding a hard statutory cap unless the General Assembly creates one.

Review focus: Check appropriations posture, grants, cost controls, expansion certificate, and agency budget review.

### **20-\_\_-1501. Funding.**

The Authority may receive appropriations, federal funds, grants, gifts, donations, fee revenue, research funds, contract revenue, program income, cost-recovery funds when lawful, interagency funds, local funds, public-private partnership funds, and other lawful funds.

### **20-\_\_-1502. No hard eight million dollar cap.**

The act shall not cap ANCHOR at eight million dollars. Any dollar amount in a fiscal model, public narrative, presentation, or planning appendix shall be a planning estimate only unless the General Assembly expressly creates a binding appropriation, cap, limitation, or funding condition in controlling law.

### **20-\_\_-1503. Expansion Certificate.**

Statewide expansion shall be supported by an Expansion Certificate addressing staffing, fiscal sustainability, co-location, transit funding, mobile access, Digital Access Core readiness, cybersecurity, privacy, accessibility, Academy readiness, provider network readiness, research, community feedback, lived-experience review, and corrective action.

## **Subchapter 16 - Rights Preservation and Construction**

Plain meaning: Preserves existing rights and clarifies that ANCHOR does not reduce rights under disability, health, education, benefit, or civil-rights law.

Review focus: Check legal consistency, non-discrimination, appeal rights, and existing agency duties.

### **20-\_\_-1601. Rights preservation.**

This chapter shall not reduce rights under the ADA, Section 504, IDEA, Medicaid law, FERPA, health privacy law, civil rights law, public benefits law, court access law, or other applicable law.

### **20-\_\_-1602. Voluntary participation.**

Participation in ANCHOR and creation of a PASSport or Access Passport shall be voluntary unless a separate lawful agreement, employment requirement, grant condition, contract, training requirement, or law applies to a participating entity.

### **20-\_\_-1603. No silent removal.**

The Authority shall maintain the master ANCHOR system as cumulative public architecture. Future public drafts shall not silently remove core systems, services, tools, public narratives, privacy safeguards, or support pathways without a marked change log and counsel review.

### **20-\_\_-1604. Severability.**

If any provision of this act or its application is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application

## **Subchapter 17 -TASAT / Autism Insight support translation system**

Plain meaning: Carries the TASAT/Autism Insight lane as a support translation and research-review system, not a diagnostic replacement.

Review focus: Check validation limits, research safeguards, user control, and plain-language use.

### **20-\_\_-1701. TASAT / Autism Insight support translation system.**

(a) The Authority may establish, coordinate, license, receive, develop, or integrate TASAT, meaning The Autism Spectrum Awareness Test / Autism Insight Comprehensive Assessment and Awareness System, as a non-diagnostic educational, training, self-understanding, content-curation, research-support, and functional-support translation system.

(b) TASAT may support public education, parent and caregiver training, clinician-preparation materials, school and workplace support summaries, Access Passport / PASSport prompts, sensory and communication profiles, crisis-prevention planning, Academy course content, and deidentified system improvement.

(c) TASAT shall not be used as a final diagnostic instrument, service eligibility gate, benefit determination tool, insurance authorization tool, school eligibility determination, public safety risk score, employment screen, or law-enforcement registry.

(d) TASAT outputs shall be framed as support information, educational information, self-report organization, functional-support translation, or training support unless independently validated and approved through applicable research, ethical, clinical, legal, and professional standards.

(e) TASAT shall preserve privacy, accessibility, human review, source change tracking, plain language, multilingual growth, data export, correction, opt-in research participation, and individual control over sharing.

### **20-\_\_-1702. Autistic-led review and lived-experience governance.**

(a) The Authority shall establish or coordinate an autistic-led review process for public materials, Academy modules, PASSport prompts, sensory and communication tools, public safety scripts, parent and caregiver training, business certification standards, parks and tourism materials, and AI-supported content.

(b) Autistic and neurodivergent reviewers should be compensated when funds are available and shall include, when practicable, adults, youth advisors, AAC users, late-identified adults, high-masking individuals, rural residents, neurodivergent parents, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and people with co-occurring disabilities.

(c) Review shall evaluate whether content avoids stigma, respects communication differences, avoids compliance-only goals, preserves autonomy, supports low-demand access, protects privacy, and provides practical next steps.

### **20-\_\_-1703. Trust repair, debrief, and recurring barrier prevention.**

(a) The Authority may develop trust-repair and debrief protocols after public-space incidents, school conflicts, emergency responses, medical access failures, workplace misunderstandings, transportation failures, or support breakdowns involving autistic or neurodivergent individuals.

(b) Protocols may include voluntary debrief, written summary, sensory and communication review, caregiver and staff support, revised PASSport prompts, referral correction, training follow-up, and prevention plan.

### **20-\_\_-1704. Low-demand access and predictable support standard.**

(a) The Authority may establish a low-demand access standard for public-facing programs. The standard may include plain language, one speaker, one step at a time, written options, processing time, reduced sensory input, predictable choices, no forced eye contact, no forced touch, no unnecessary phone-only access, and no unnecessary rapid questioning.

(b) The standard shall be designed to improve access for autistic and neurodivergent individuals while also benefiting children, older adults, trauma survivors, people with migraines, people with communication disabilities, people with anxiety, and members of the public under stress.

## **Subchapter 18 - Public Documentation, Review, and Document Center**

Plain meaning: Creates the public Document Center for reading, printing, commenting, packet preparation, review routing, and public documentation.

Review focus: Check comment handling, public access, document labels, accessibility, language access, and official submission boundaries.

### **20-\_\_-1801. ANCHOR Document Center.**

(a) The Authority may establish and maintain the ANCHOR Document Center as the public and Task Force-facing documentation hub for the Arkansas ANCHOR Authority Act, public review materials, plain-language summaries, supporting materials, supporting record registers, public comments, hearing packets, implementation worksheets, printable forms, and other materials approved for review.

(b) The Document Center may support online reading, high-fidelity printing, PDF download, plain-language review, public comment collection, Task Force review packets, hearing preparation, supporting record organization, revision comparison, document deduplication, comment deduplication, status labels, public notices, accessibility review, and language-access readiness.

(c) The Document Center shall clearly distinguish between statutory text, explanatory material, public education material, supporting-source material, draft language, counsel-review material, fiscal-review material, and implementation worksheets.

(d) The Document Center shall not represent any draft as filed legislation, enacted law, final agency rule, clinical guidance, Medicaid policy, procurement award, tax incentive, or official eligibility determination unless approved by the proper authority.

### **20-\_\_-1802. Document registry and supporting record organization.**

(a) The Authority may maintain a document registry for public materials and review materials. Each registry item may include title, public purpose, audience, status, owner, supporting-record relationship, review deadline, language-access status, accessibility status, print format, and revision history.

(b) The registry may include the Act, public reader guide, Task Force brief, service-scope matrix, Mobile NAV layer, Access Passport materials, Academy materials, public comment worksheets, supporting record register, annual reports, public dashboards, and supporting appendices.

(c) The Authority may consolidate duplicate materials into clearer public documents, but consolidation shall not silently remove unique services, rights protections, public tools, review controls, or implementation requirements.

### **20-\_\_-1803. Public comment and review queue.**

(a) The Authority may receive, organize, export, and report public comments, Task Force review notes, counsel comments, fiscal comments, accessibility comments, lived-experience comments, and implementation action items.

(b) Comments may be grouped by section, topic, audience, urgency, support, concern, correction, service gap, language-access issue, accessibility issue, fiscal issue, legal issue, or implementation issue.

(c) Comment processing shall preserve privacy and shall not require a person to disclose diagnosis, protected health information, education records, immigration status, or other unnecessary personal information to comment on public materials.

### **20-\_\_-1804. Print, download, and offline access.**

(a) Public review materials shall be made available in accessible online form and printable form when practicable.

(b) The Authority may provide PDF packets, individual document downloads, low-ink print drafts, large-print drafts, public worksheets, and offline review packets for libraries, Regional Docks, community anchor sites, Task Force meetings, and public events.

(c) The Authority shall preserve non-digital review options when practicable, including paper worksheets, staff-assisted review, and partner-site review support.

### **20-\_\_-1805. Document Center data boundary.**

(a) The Document Center is a review and publication system. It is not a PASSport, clinical record, Medicaid record, school record, law-enforcement record, eligibility record, or emergency-response record.

(b) If the Document Center later connects to protected systems, protected information shall be separated by role, consent, purpose, retention rule, and applicable law.

(c) The public comment system shall use the minimum information necessary for review and follow-up.

## **Subchapter 19 - Mobile NAV Safety Net and Continuous Support**

Plain meaning: Adds Mobile NAV as a mobile triage, education, stabilization, peer connection, diagnostic-routing, and follow-up safety-net layer.

Review focus: Check that Mobile NAV gives real next steps while avoiding diagnosis, forced disclosure, or crisis overreach.

### **20-\_\_-1901. Mobile NAV Safety Net.**

(a) The Authority may establish Mobile NAV as a mobile safety-net function within Access Vans, Mobile Access Vehicles, contracted or upfitted transit partnerships, Regional Docks, community anchor sites, and public events.

(b) Mobile NAV may provide public education, low-sensory screening, functional needs triage, sensory stabilization, communication support, crisis-prevention planning, peer support connection, resource coordination, telehealth referral capacity, appointment preparation, warm handoffs, and follow-up tracking.

(c) Mobile NAV is not a final diagnostic authority and shall not be represented as a replacement for licensed clinical diagnosis, Medicaid eligibility, school eligibility, law-enforcement authority, child welfare authority, or emergency medical response.

### **20-\_\_-1902. No diagnosis barrier for foundational support.**

(a) A person may receive public education, screening, navigation, peer support, sensory support, communication support, crisis planning, temporary functional support, and referral services based on observed or reported functional need, developmental concern, sensory impairment, communication need, executive-function limitation, caregiver-support need, or crisis risk.

(b) A formal diagnosis may support a referral or service pathway but shall not be the sole entry point for Mobile NAV foundational support.

### **20-\_\_-1903. Provisional Functional Support Status.**

(a) The Authority may create a temporary Provisional Functional Support Status for individuals who demonstrate significant autism-related or neurodevelopmental support needs while awaiting diagnostic review, eligibility review, provider evaluation, school review, housing review, benefits review, or service authorization.

(b) Provisional Functional Support Status may authorize time-limited access to foundational supports, case management, early intervention referral, adult diagnostic referral, crisis planning, communication supports, peer navigation, sensory support kits, AAC trial access, appointment preparation, and follow-up.

(c) Provisional Functional Support Status shall not be a diagnosis, permanent entitlement, Medicaid authorization, special education determination, insurance authorization, or public safety classification.

### **20-\_\_-1904. Neuro-Informed Community Pop-Up.**

(a) Mobile NAV deployments may include an exterior or partner-site public education area known as a Neuro-Informed Community Pop-Up.

(b) The Pop-Up may include visual education boards, multilingual and low-literacy materials, printed quick guides, AAC and nonspeaking communication education, meltdown and shutdown support education, adult masking and burnout education, community training signups, sensory tool distribution, and local partner onboarding.

### **20-\_\_-1905. Peer-to-Peer Warm Network.**

(a) The Authority may coordinate a Peer-to-Peer Warm Network that connects individuals and families with vetted peer mentors when appropriate and voluntary.

(b) Peer tracks may include parents of autistic children, late-identified adults, autistic adult peer mentors, aging caregiver mentors, sibling and family mentors, rural family mentors, AAC and nonspeaking support mentors, employment-support mentors, and geriatric caregiver mentors.

(c) Peer support shall not replace clinical care, emergency care, legal advice, or eligibility decisions.

### **20-\_\_-1906. Functional Crisis and Sensory Safety Plan.**

(a) Mobile NAV staff may help create a Functional Crisis and Sensory Safety Plan for individuals or families who request support.

(b) The plan may document triggers, early warning signs, what helps, what makes things worse, preferred communication, sensory tools, unsafe interventions, medication or medical considerations when voluntarily provided, emergency contact preferences, whether law-enforcement involvement increases risk, when 988 or mobile crisis may be preferred, and when emergency medical services are required.

(c) A Functional Crisis and Sensory Safety Plan shall be shareable only by consent, emergency exception, authorized representative action, court order, required reporting law, or other applicable law.

### **20-\_\_-1907. Crisis didraft coordination.**

(a) Mobile NAV may coordinate with state-funded mobile crisis teams, 988-connected crisis systems, crisis stabilization providers, medical emergency systems, and local partners to reduce unnecessary emergency-room use, police involvement, and trauma during behavioral, sensory, communication, or caregiver-support crises.

(b) This section does not authorize Mobile NAV to bypass lawful emergency response, mandatory reporting, medical emergency response, or public safety duties.

## **SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Public narrative and implementation appendices.**

Plain meaning: Carries public education, service scenarios, appendices, and review materials without codifying all explanatory text.

Review focus: Check what belongs in law versus implementation guidance or public packet material.

(a) The narrative, research, training, system architecture, service scenarios, supporting record register, glossary, and appendices included in this review document are intended to guide implementation, policy review, public understanding, and counsel review.

(b) These materials shall not replace controlling statutory language, appropriations language, agency rules, federal requirements, clinical standards, procurement law, or civil rights obligations.

(c) The Authority shall keep public-facing materials friendly, straightforward, hopeful, accurate, plain-language, accessible, and respectful of autistic and neurodivergent people.

## **SECTION 4. Effective date.**

Plain meaning: Sets the Act to take effect as allowed by Arkansas law.

Review focus: Check whether counsel should add emergency clause, delayed implementation, or phased effective dates.

This act shall become effective on [effective date].