AMENDMENT SUMMARY: The proposed amendment allows state parks to issue permits to sell alcohol. This proposed Amendment is in response to Act 655 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Arkansas General Assembly.

2.86 State parks are exempt from the three-tier system and do not need a permit from ABC to sell or serve alcohol, provided notice be given to ABC by the Secretary of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism when a state park is approved to sell or serve alcoholic beverages. State parks may still be eligible for an ABC permit.

A. A state park that has obtained authorization under § 3-9-103(b)(2)(A) may allow a third-party vendor at the state park to serve alcoholic beverages as described under § 3-9-103(b)(1).

B. A state park authorized to sell alcoholic beverages under this subsection shall serve the alcoholic beverages only during operating hours of the premises, including without limitation:

1. the hours of operation of a restaurant on the state park property; or

2. the hours of an outdoor event.

C. A state park authorized to sell alcoholic beverages under § 3-9-103(b) shall purchase alcoholic beverages from a wholesaler. A wholesaler may sell and distribute alcoholic beverages to a state park permitted by ABC or ADPHT in any county.

D. A state park approved under this section to sell or serve alcoholic beverages shall comply with all division rules; and renew the state park’s approval to sell or serve alcoholic beverages with the secretary yearly. Therefore, the Alcoholic Beverage Control and the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism will both inspect and monitor to ensure the rules applicable to the sale of controlled beverages are being adhered to. All violations will be presented to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.