NOTICES OF RULEMAKING DOCKET OPENINGS

The Administrative Procedure Act (APA) requires the publication of Notices of Rulemaking Docket Opening whenever an agency opens a rulemaking docket to consider rulemaking. Under the APA effective January 1, 1995, agencies must submit a Notice of Rulemaking Docket Opening before beginning the formal rulemaking process.

NOTICE OF RULEMAKING DOCKET OPENING

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

1. **Title and its heading:** 6, Economic Security
   Chapter and its heading: 10, Department of Economic Security - The Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Program (JOBS)
   Articles and their headings: 2, JOBSTART
   13, JOBSTART
   Section number: R6-10-201(2) and R6-12-1301
2. **Subject matter of the proposed rules:**
   JOBSTART is a demonstration project that was authorized by Laws 1994, Ch. 301, § 2, and approved by the United States Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Section 1115 of the Social Security Act. It is a component of the state's welfare reform EMPOWER Program. JOBSTART allows individuals receiving both AFDC and Food Stamps to work for public or private sector employers for minimum wage. The AFDC and food stamp benefits are then used to partially reimburse employers for wages paid to benefit recipients who work for the employers.

   JOBSTART was piloted in a designated geographic area (Coolidge, Eloy, and Casa Grande). The Department plans to amend the definition of "designated geographic area" to include portions of eastern Maricopa County. This modification is needed to increase the client population eligible for JOBSTART. The Department needs a larger population than has been generated in the current geographic area to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot.
3. **A citation to all published notices relating to the proceeding:**
   None to date.
4. **Name and address of agency personnel with whom persons may communicate regarding the rule:**
   Name: Vista Thompson Brown

   Address: Department of Economic Security
   1789 West Jefferson, Site Code 837A
   Phoenix, Arizona 85007

   or

   P.O. Box 6123, Site Code 837A
   Phoenix, Arizona 85005

   Telephone: (602) 542-6555

   Fax: (602) 542-6000
5. **The time during which written submissions may be made and the time and place where oral comments may be made:**
   The Department will accept written comment during regular business at the address listed above until the close of record, which has not yet been determined.

   The Department has not scheduled oral proceedings at this time.
6. **A timetable for agency decisions or other action in the proceeding:**
   The Department expects to file a proposed rule amendment with the Secretary of State's Office in late March 1996. The Department does not plan to conduct public hearings on this amendment unless 5 or more people request a hearing. The Department will close the record and proceed to the Governor's Regulatory Review Council as expeditiously as possible.