

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1694

By: Representatives Hollowell, Murdock

By: Senator Caldwell

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO PRESERVE PUBLIC PROPERTY; TO PRESERVE THE
PINE TREE RESEARCH STATION; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO PRESERVE PUBLIC PROPERTY; TO PRESERVE
THE PINE TREE RESEARCH STATION; AND TO
DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 64, Subchapter 7, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-64-718. Preservation of Pine Tree Research Station.

(a) The Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas shall not sell the property commonly known as the Pine Tree Research Station, located in St. Francis County, Arkansas acquired by the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas from the United States of America, acting through the United States Forest Service in 1978 to a private entity or individual.

(b) The Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas may sell the property commonly known as the Pine Tree Research Station, located in St. Francis County, Arkansas acquired by the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas from the United States of America, acting through the United States Forest Service in 1978 to a nonprofit corporation:

(1) Organized with the primary mission to keep the land open to



the public and available for public use; and

(2) Organized and operated for a minimum of five (5) years.

(c) The property commonly known as the Pine Tree Research Station, located in St. Francis County, Arkansas acquired by the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas from the United States of America, acting through the United States Forest Service in 1978, shall remain open to the public for public use, including without limitation:

(1) Public fishing;

(2) Public hunting;

(3) Biking;

(4) Bird watching; and

(5) Hiking.

(d) All property commonly known as the Pine Tree Research Station, located in St. Francis County, Arkansas acquired by the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas from the United States of America, acting through the United States Forest Service in 1978, used for row crop cultivation in the year 2020, is exempt from subsection (c) of this section.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that state lands are held and managed for the benefit of the citizens of Arkansas; that the public has a right to continue to enjoy state lands used for public purposes; that a sale of Pine Tree Research Station would damage the trust of the citizens in the state and disrupt the public peace; and that this act is immediately necessary because a sale of the property to a private entity would discontinue the public's right to use and enjoy the state lands. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

APPROVED: 4/5/21