

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
90th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2015

A Bill

SENATE BILL 469

By: Senator Caldwell
By: Representative Speaks

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAWS CONCERNING THE FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM; TO TRANSFER ADMINISTRATION OF THE FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM TO THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL SERVICES; TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AMEND THE LAWS CONCERNING THE FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM; AND TO TRANSFER ADMINISTRATION OF THE FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM TO THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL SERVICES.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings and intent.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Conservation of the fish and wildlife of the state is essential to the economy and ecology of our state;

(2) Educating youth regarding conservation issues is an important step in developing a knowledgeable citizenry that appreciates the benefits to the state and its residents of conserving fish and wildlife;

(3) A significant portion of the state's conservation efforts take place in rural areas, but people from all over the state travel to these



rural areas to interact with the fish and wildlife of the state; and

(4) The Department of Rural Services is uniquely qualified to administer a program that brings together conservation issues and the needs of rural areas.

(b) The General Assembly intends for this act to transfer the administration of the fish and wildlife conservation education program from the Department of Education to the Department of Rural Services.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-16-1101 is amended to read as follows:

6-16-1101. Fish and wildlife conservation education.

(a) The Department of ~~Education~~ Rural Services, in consultation with the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, shall establish school education programs for fish and wildlife conservation and other purposes consistent with Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 35.

(b) The conservation education programs may include, ~~but not be limited to,~~ without limitation the study of general fish and wildlife conservation issues, hunter education training, fishing education training, boating education training, wildlife habitat development, Project WILD, and the Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs Program.

(c)(1) The department shall distribute ~~quarterly~~ annually, in the form of direct grants, all grant moneys provided by the commission under § 15-41-209(d) to the school districts, conservation districts, or both located in the counties where in which the offenses occurred.

~~(2)(A) The counties shall distribute quarterly in the manner prescribed by ordinance of the county quorum courts all of the funds provided by the commission under § 15-41-209(d) for fish and wildlife conservation education and other purposes consistent with Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 35, to the school districts or conservation districts, or both, for the sole purpose of approved conservation education programs within the counties. A school district or conservation district that wants to apply for a grant under this section shall submit an application on the form prescribed by the department and in accordance with the rules promulgated by the department.~~

(B) The population of a county or the census of a school district shall not be a factor in determining the eligibility of a school district or conservation district for a grant under this section.

(d) The department shall promulgate rules to administer this section.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 15-6-106(a), concerning the powers and duties of the Department of Rural Services, is amended to read as follows:

(1) To administer the conservation education program established under § 6-16-1101 for the benefit of all school districts and conservation districts in the state, regardless of population.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 15-41-209 is amended to read as follows:
15-41-209. Fines, fees, and costs.

(a) All fines assessed against and collected from persons convicted for infractions of ~~any of~~ the state laws protecting game, fish, fur-bearing animals, or fresh water mussels shall be paid to the county treasurer or the ~~municipal~~ district court clerk of the county ~~wherein~~ in which the fine is assessed and forwarded, as provided, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission.

(b)(1) The county treasurer or ~~municipal~~ district court clerk shall give his or her receipt to ~~any a~~ a person paying ~~the a~~ a fine or to ~~any an~~ an officer of the court making settlement of fines collected.

(2)(A) At the end of each ~~four (4) months, in April, August, and December~~ month, county treasurers or ~~municipal~~ district court clerks shall file a report and forward all fines collected under ~~the provisions of~~ this chapter to the commission.

(B) The report, filed on forms provided by the commission, shall include:

- (i) The name of each defendant;
- (ii) The court case number;
- (iii) The name of the arresting officer; and
- (iv) The amount of the fine.

(c) ~~The~~ Upon receipt of the fines described in subsection (b) of this section, the commission shall, ~~upon receipt thereof,~~ deposit the ~~same~~ fines with the Treasurer of State who shall deposit the ~~moneys~~ fines as special revenues ~~in~~ into the Game Protection Fund.

(d) ~~All or any~~ A portion of the ~~fine moneys~~ fines deposited as special revenues ~~in~~ into the fund may be expended by the commission in the form of grants issued to the Department of ~~Education~~ Rural Services for fish and wildlife conservation education and other purposes consistent with Arkansas

Constitution, Amendment 35.

(e)(1) The commission shall file a written report no later than October 1 of each even-numbered year with the Legislative Council and the Joint Budget Committee indicating the amount of fines deposited into the fund during the prior two (2) fiscal years and the amount of those funds transferred to the department under subsection (d) of this section.

(2) If all of the ~~fine moneys~~ fines were not transferred to the department, the commission shall include in its report an explanation as to why all ~~funds~~ fines were not transferred.