

State of Arkansas
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1414

By: Representatives Fielding, Barker, Cozart, Holcomb, Jean, Watson

By: Senators Maloch, T. Garner, Elliott, Teague

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN ROUTES IN CENTRAL AND
SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS AS THE "CAMDEN EXPEDITION SCENIC
HIGHWAY"; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN ROUTES IN CENTRAL
AND SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS AS THE "CAMDEN
EXPEDITION SCENIC HIGHWAY".

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Civil War tourism brings many benefits to the surrounding
community including new:

(A) Jobs for local residents;

(B) State and local tax revenues; and

(C) Business for the local economy;

(2) Well-preserved Civil War battlefields are important to
Arkansas tourism in attracting tourists who wish to experience the
authenticity of place associated with the battles that shaped American
history, and these types of tourists tend to stay significantly longer in the
areas they visit than other tourists;

(3) The Camden Expedition was the Arkansas phase of the Red
River Campaign devised to reassert the Union Army's control over Arkansas,
Louisiana, and Texas;



(4) On March 23, 1864, Major General Frederick Steele led a Union army of eight thousand five hundred (8,500) troops made up of infantry, artillery, and cavalry south from Little Rock to join a larger Union force in Shreveport, Louisiana, and invade Texas;

(5) Major General Steele's army abandoned the drive south and turned instead to Camden after learning Union forces in Louisiana had been defeated;

(6) Due to a lack of logistical planning, poor roads, shortage of food and supplies, and continued Confederate resistance, Steele and his remaining troops fled Camden and retreated to Little Rock;

(7) The defeated Union force arrived in Little Rock on May 3, 1864, with over two thousand five hundred (2,500) casualties making the Camden Expedition one of the worst Union military disasters of the American Civil War to take place in Arkansas;

(8) In 1994, eight (8) historic sites associated with the Camden Expedition were designated as the "Camden Expedition National Historic Landmark", a distinction accorded by the United States Secretary of the Interior only to landmarks of national historical significance;

(9) The Camden Expedition Scenic Highway guides a Civil War tourist through southern and central Arkansas connecting five (5) battlefields and other Civil War historic sites, including the:

(A) Confederate State Capitol building in Historic Washington State Park in Hempstead County;

(B) Elkins' Ferry Battlefield in Clark and Nevada counties;

(C) Fort Lookout on Rogers Street, in Camden, Ouachita County;

(D) Fort Southerland on Bradley Ferry Road, in Camden, Ouachita County;

(E) Jenkins' Ferry Battleground State Park, Grant County;

(F) Marks' Mills Battleground State Park, Cleveland County;

(G) Site of the Skirmishes at Okolona, Clark County;

(H) Poison Springs Battleground State Park State Park, Ouachita County;

- (I) Prairie D'Ane Battlefield, Nevada County; and
(J) Site of the Skirmish at Terre Noire Creek, Clark

County; and

(10) The designation of the "Camden Expedition Scenic Highway" is essential to preserve and develop Civil War historic sites while increasing economic development of cities in close proximity to the Civil War historic sites.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 27-67-203(a), concerning scenic highway designations, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(51) State Highway 5 from Little Rock to Benton; State Highway 229 from Benton becoming U.S. 67 South and U.S. 270B to Malvern; U.S. 270B from Malvern to Rockport; U.S. 67 South from Malvern through Donaldson to Arkadelphia; picking up at County Road 15, Midway Road, west of Donaldson, then north on County Road 15 to Social Hill; State Highway 8 from Arkadelphia west to State Highway 26 and State Highway 51, Hollywood Road, to County Road 269, Halfway Cemetery Road, in Halfway; then south on County Road 269 to Halfway Cemetery; picking up at the intersection of State Highway 26 and County Road 11, Davidson Campground Road, then south on County Road 11 to Davidson Campground; picking up at the intersection of State Highway 26 with State Highway 53, then south along State Highway 53 becoming State Highway 51 to Okolona; picking up at County Road 16, Smyrna Road, to the Battle of the Bees historical marker; then south along State Highway 51 from Okolona to U.S. 67 south to Prescott; picking up at County Road 37, Nubbin Hill Road, north of Prescott, continue north to Elkins' Ferry Battlefield; State Highway 19, Delight Highway, from Prescott north to the Prairie D'Ane Battlefield; picking up at U.S. 371 and State Highway 24 in Prescott to their intersection with County Road 30 and State Highway 30; State Highway 24 from Prescott east to Bluff City; picking up at the intersection of State Highway 24 with County Road 23, Cale Road, then south on County Road 23 to Moscow Methodist Church and Cemetery; picking up at State Highway 332, Washington Road, from Prescott west to State Highway 29 to north of Hope; U.S. 278, Commerce Boulevard, from Hope west to Historic Washington State Park in Washington; picking up at the intersection of State Highway 24 and State Highway 387 in Bluff City, then south along State Highway 387 becoming State Highway 76 to its intersection with State Highway 24; then along State Highway 24 to Camden;

then east along U.S. 278 and U.S. 278B, Washington Street, to State Highway 7, Adams Street and Maul Road; then north on State Highway 7 to Henry Wesley Sr. Drive; U.S. 79B, California Avenue, in Camden south to Grinstead Street; U.S. 79 from Camden to Fordyce; State Highway 8 from Fordyce east to its intersection with State Highway 97; then north on State Highway 97 from Fordyce to Marks' Cemetery Road; State Highway 8 from Fordyce north through Princeton and Tulip to State Highway 46 to Sheridan; picking up at Grant County Road 1 and Dallas County Road 409 in Leola, then south on Grant County Road 1 and Dallas County Road 409 to Phillips Trail; picking up at the intersection of State Highway 46 and Grant County Road 6, then north along Grant County Road 6 to State Highway 229; then south along State Highway 229 to State Highway 46; picking up at the intersection of State Highway 46 and State Highway 291, then north along State Highway 291 to Prattsville; State Highway 35 from Sheridan to its intersection with State Highway 183; then east along State Highway 183 through Bauxite becoming Reynolds Road to its intersection with State Highway 5, Old Stage Coach Road; which will be known as the "Camden Expedition Scenic Highway", an Arkansas Scenic Highway.