

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

State of Arkansas
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1487

By: Representative Blake

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE FLAG OF ARKANSAS; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE SYMBOLS WITHIN THE STATE FLAG OF ARKANSAS; TO REDESIGNATE A STAR TO COMMEMORATE THE NATIVE AMERICANS WHO FIRST INHABITED ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING THE STATE FLAG OF ARKANSAS; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE SYMBOLS WITHIN THE STATE FLAG OF ARKANSAS; AND TO REDESIGNATE A STAR TO COMMEMORATE THE NATIVE AMERICANS WHO FIRST INHABITED ARKANSAS.

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) Arkansas was once home to numerous thriving Native American tribes, including the Quapaw, the Osage, the Caddo, the Tunica and the Chickasaw;

(2) The name "Arkansas" is derived from the Native American word "Acansa", a name that refers to the Quapaw Indians and means "southern place";

(3) The forced migration of Native Americans along the Trail of Tears during the 1830s brought even more Native American tribes through Arkansas, such as the Cherokee, who established a large settlement along the Arkansas



River near modern-day Russellville before being forced to move again, all the while suffering from disease, drought, and attacks both from other Native American tribes and neighboring settlers;

(4) The designation of the Menard-Hodges Site near Dumas, Arkansas, as a National Historic Landmark in 1989 as well as the designation of other sacred sites in Arkansas under President Clinton's 1996 Executive Order 13007 has allowed the modern Caddo, Cherokee, Osage, Quapaw, and Tunica to reclaim their ancestral ties to Arkansas;

(5) Today, the Arkansas Archeological Survey maintains ten (10) research stations across the state that work to preserve the past of Arkansas's original inhabitants; and

(6) Native American history and culture is an important part of the history of this state.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 1-4-101(b), concerning the meaning of the symbols within the state flag of Arkansas, is amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) The three (3) stars ~~so placed are designed to~~ below the word "ARKANSAS" represent ~~the~~;

(A) The three (3) nations, France, Spain, and the United States, ~~which that~~ have successively exercised dominion over Arkansas. ~~These stars also indicate that;~~ and

(B) Arkansas ~~was~~ as the third state carved out of the Louisiana Purchase.

(2) Of ~~these~~ the three (3) stars below the word "ARKANSAS", the twin stars parallel with each other signify that Arkansas and Michigan are ~~twin~~ sister states, having been admitted to the Union ~~together on June 15, 1836~~ within just months of each other, Arkansas on June 15, 1836 and Michigan on January 26, 1837.

(3) The twenty-five (25) white stars on the band of blue show that Arkansas was the twenty-fifth state admitted to the Union.

(4) The blue star above the word "ARKANSAS" ~~is to commemorate the Confederate States of America~~ commemorates the heritage and contribution of the Quapaw, Osage, and Caddo tribes and the other Native American nations who inhabited Arkansas before France or Spain exercised dominion over Arkansas.

(5) The diamond signifies that this state is the only diamond-

bearing state in the Union.