

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 1863

By: Representative Rye

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING PROPERTY TAX RELIEF AND THE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF TRUST FUND; TO INCREASE THE HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX CREDIT; TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF THE EXCESS FUNDS IN THE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF TRUST FUND FOR ADDITIONAL PURPOSES; TO PROVIDE FOR A ONE-TIME TRANSFER FROM THE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF TRUST FUND TO THE COUNTY VOTING SYSTEM GRANT FUND; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO INCREASE THE HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX CREDIT; TO PROVIDE FOR A ONE-TIME TRANSFER FROM THE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF TRUST FUND TO THE COUNTY VOTING SYSTEM GRANT FUND; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. One-time transfer from Property Tax Relief Trust Fund.

(a)(1) For calendar year 2019, by the last business day of each month following the effective date of this act, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall certify to the Treasurer of State the total amount of moneys credited to the Property Tax Relief Trust Fund since the effective date of this act.

(2) The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall determine the



estimated amount needed to fund the distributions required under § 26-26-310(b)(2)(C) for calendar year 2020.

(b)(1) When the amount certified by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State under subdivision (a)(1) of this section exceeds the amount determined under subdivision (a)(2) of this section for the year, the Treasurer of State, by July 1, 2019, shall make a one-time transfer of eight million two hundred forty-six thousand five hundred seventy-three dollars (\$8,246,573) to the County Voting System Grant Fund.

(2) The transfer required under subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall occur as soon as practicable after July 1, 2019, if, by July 1, 2019, the amount certified by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State under subdivision (a)(1) of this section does not exceed the amount determined under subdivision (a)(2) of this section by the full amount required for the transfer under subdivision (b)(1) of this section.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 26-26-1118(a)(1)(A), concerning the homestead property tax credit and the limitation on the increase of a property's assessed value for property tax purposes, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1)(A) There is established a homestead property tax credit for each assessment year that reduces the amount of real property taxes assessed on the homestead of each property owner by ~~three hundred fifty dollars (\$350)~~ three hundred seventy-five dollars (\$375).

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. Section 2 of this act is effective for assessment years beginning on or after January 1, 2019.

SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Property Tax Relief Trust Fund has excess revenues that are not being used efficiently by the state; that it would assist in the effective and efficient administration of government to more fully utilize available state revenues for important purposes and programs in the state; that it is in the best interest of the state to use existing revenues in a fiscally responsible manner rather than increasing the burden on Arkansas residents; and that this act is immediately necessary because expanding the use of the state revenue in the Property Tax

Relief Trust Fund will allow the state to more effectively use existing state revenue to address immediate concerns in the state, including assisting with the costs incurred by counties for voting machines. 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.