

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

State of Arkansas  
93rd General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2021

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1823

By: Representative Gonzales

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO RENAME THE TOLTEC MOUNDS ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
STATE PARK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO RENAME THE TOLTEC MOUNDS  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL STATE PARK.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings and intent.  
The General Assembly finds that:

(1)(A) The Toltec Mounds Archeological State Park, also known as the "Toltec Mounds Site", is an archaeological site in Lonoke County, Arkansas, that protects an eighteen-mound complex with the tallest surviving prehistoric mounds in Arkansas.

(B) The site was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1978;

(2) Construction of the Toltec Mounds Site in Lonoke County, Arkansas is attributed to the Toltec civilization of Mexico;

(3) Archaeologists from the Smithsonian Institution's Bureau of Ethnology in 1883 proved that the indigenous ancestors of regional Native Americans had built these mounds for religious, political, and ceremonial purposes;

(4)(A) The name "Arkansas" derives from the indigenous word "Arkansia", used to describe the Quapaw Nation of Indians who once occupied this region of the land.

(B) A treaty between the United States and the Quapaw



Nation of Indians was made and concluded on November 15, 1824, at Harrington's, in the Territory of Arkansas, by the commissioner on the part of the United States and certain chiefs and warriors of the Tribe.

(C) The Quapaw Nation ceded to the United States all claim or title that it may have to lands in the Territory of Arkansas.

(D) The United States guaranteed to the Quapaw Nation the unhindered right to hunt on the lands ceded by the Quawpaw Nation in conformity with the treaty concluded at St. Louis, Territory of Missouri, on August 24, 1818;

(5)(A) One of the four (4) principal chiefs to sign the Treaty of 1824 between the United States and the Quapaw Nation was named "Heckaton", also known as "Dry Man".

(B) Heckaton was a principal chief who signed the treaties with the United States in 1818, 1824, and 1833, and the treaty of 1833 reserved for the Quapaw land in the northeast region of the present day State of Oklahoma, and remains the seat of government for the Quapaw Nation; and

(6) The Quapaw Nation maintains a historical connection to the State of Arkansas and recognizes it as its ancestral homeland, as evidenced by the numerous burial and historical sites located throughout the region.

SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Toltec Mounds Archaeological State Park renamed for Chief Heckaton.

(a) Toltec Mounds Archaeological State Park shall be renamed "Chief Heckaton Archaeological State Park", and the name shall be changed only by an act of the General Assembly.

(b) The Building Authority Division and the State Parks, Recreation, and Travel Commission may make any improvements, arrangements, or contracts or authorize any construction needed to display the name "Chief Heckaton Archaeological State Park" on or near the property formerly known as "Toltec Mounds Archaeological State Park" in furtherance of this act.