

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

SENATE BILL 715

By: Senator C. Tucker
By: Representative Love

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE FLAG OF ARKANSAS; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE SYMBOLS ON THE STATE FLAG OF ARKANSAS; TO REDESIGNATE THE STARS ON THE STATE FLAG OF ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING THE STATE FLAG OF ARKANSAS; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE SYMBOLS ON THE STATE FLAG OF ARKANSAS; AND TO REDESIGNATE THE STARS ON THE STATE FLAG OF 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, and the Tunica;
- (2) The name "Arkansas" is derived from the Native American word "Acansa", a name that refers to the Quapaw 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 from both 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 history of Arkansas's original inhabitants;

(6) Native American history and culture are an important part of the history of this state;

(7) The territory of Arkansas was admitted to the United States of America as the twenty-fifth state on June 15, 1836;

(8) The state flag of Arkansas was designed by Willie Hocker of Jefferson County;

(9) The General Assembly adopted the design of Willie Hocker as the official flag of Arkansas on February 26, 1913;

(10) In 1923, Representative Neill Bohlinger of Pulaski County, a known and open member of the Ku Klux Klan, proposed that the design be altered with an additional blue star to commemorate the state's historical membership in the Confederate States of America, which the General Assembly voted to approve; and

(11) In 1924, the General Assembly moved the star commemorating the state's historical membership in the Confederate States of America above the word "ARKANSAS" on the flag and placed the star commemorating the United States of America in subordination to it.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 1-4-101(b), concerning the meaning of the symbols on 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, collectively, the United States Native American nations, 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 that were offered admission~~ to the Union together on June 15, 1836, with Arkansas becoming the twenty-fifth state admitted to the Union on June 15, 1836, and Michigan following a few months later 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~~ represents the United States of America.

(5) The diamond signifies that this state is the only diamond-bearing state in the Union.