

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

State of Arkansas  
94th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2023

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 493

By: Senator G. Stubblefield

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION CONCERNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS; TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS" UNDER ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 12, § 5; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION CONCERNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS; TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS" UNDER ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 12, § 5; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Pursuant to authority granted to the General Assembly by Arkansas Constitution, Article 12, § 5(d), Arkansas Constitution, Article 12, § 5(c)(1), concerning the definition of "economic development projects", is amended to read as follows:

(1) "Economic development projects" means the land, buildings, furnishings, equipment, facilities, infrastructure, and improvements that are required or suitable for the development, retention, or expansion of:

- (A) Manufacturing, production, and industrial facilities;
- (B) Research, technology, and development facilities;
- (C) Recycling facilities;
- (D) Distribution centers;



- (E) Call centers;
- (F) Warehouse facilities;
- (G) Job training facilities;
- (H) Regional or national corporate headquarters facilities; ~~and~~
- (I) Sports complexes designed to host local, state, regional, and national competitions, including without limitation baseball, softball, and other sports tournaments; and
- (J) Facilities for the retail sale of goods;

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that Acts 2019, No. 798, added retail facilities to the list of projects that qualify as economic development projects under the Local Job Creation, Job Expansion, and Economic Development Act of 2017; that Acts 2019, No. 798, did not amend Arkansas Constitution, Article 12, § 5, to include retail facilities in the list of economic development projects for which a county, city, town, or other municipal corporation may obtain or appropriate money; that this discrepancy prevents counties, cities, towns, and other municipal corporations from investing in economic development projects that would bring much needed revenues and jobs to their areas; and that this act is immediately necessary because counties, cities, towns, and other municipal corporations are at risk of losing economic development projects, which will negatively affect the job market and the tax revenues in the area. 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.