

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

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

As Engrossed: S4/5/23
A Bill

SENATE BILL 499

By: Senators B. Johnson, Caldwell, Hill

By: Representatives J. Moore, Fortner

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT REGARDING RICE PROMOTION; TO AMEND THE
ASSESSMENTS ON RICE; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

REGARDING RICE PROMOTION; TO AMEND THE
ASSESSMENTS ON RICE; AND TO DECLARE AN
EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 2-20-507(a), concerning the assessments imposed on grown rice, is amended to read as follows:

(a) There are imposed and levied:

(1) An assessment at the rate of ~~one and thirty five hundredths~~ two cents ~~(1.35¢)~~ (2¢) per bushel to be paid by the buyer at the first point of sale, whether within or without the state, on rice ~~grown~~ purchased within the state or at the point the rice enters into the United States Department of Agriculture loan program; and

(2) An assessment at the rate of ~~one and thirty five hundredths~~ two cents ~~(1.35¢)~~ (2¢) per bushel to be paid by the producer on all rice ~~grown~~ purchased within this state.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 2-20-507(d), concerning the use of funds derived from the assessments imposed on grown rice, is amended to read as follows:



(d)(1) The funds derived from the assessment paid by a buyer at the first point of sale shall be used for+

- (A) Market development and rice promotion; and
- (B) Basic administration expenses; ~~and~~
- ~~(C) Defraying the costs of referenda that the board may refer to buyers of rice.~~

(2) The funds derived from the assessment paid by a producer shall be used for+

- (A) Rice extension and rice research; and
- (B) Basic administration expenses; ~~and~~
- ~~(C) Defraying the costs of referenda that the board may refer to producers of rice.~~

(3) Funds under subdivisions (d)(1) and (2) of this section may be applied within or without Arkansas, including regional, national, and international applications.

(4) The board may use up to twenty percent (20%) of the total proceeds of the assessment for purposes deemed necessary by the board for:

- (A) Market development;
- (B) Rice promotion;
- (C) Rice extension;
- (D) Rice research;
- (E) Rice education and outreach;
- (F) Rice policy development; and
- (G) Food safety pertaining to rice.

SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the recognized marketing year, which is designated for reporting and analysis of production, marketing, and disposition of a commodity, begins on August 1 and ends of July 31 of each calendar year for rice; and that the implementation of new rules or processes related to rice should be initiated at the beginning of the marketing year in order to provide certainty to the rice industry and to advance the economic health of the rice industry. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on August 1, 2023.

/s/B. Johnson