ARKANSAS SENATE

84th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2003

Amendment Form

Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 939

"AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE § 8-7- 1103 TO AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TO PROVIDE LOANS AND GRANTS."

Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill No. 939.

Amend Senate Bill No. 939 as originally introduced:

Page 1, delete line 12 and substitute the following: "GRANTS FOR THE ASSESSMENT, INVESTIGATION, AND REMEDIATION OF ABANDONED INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, OR AGRICULTURAL SITES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

AND

Delete everything after the enactment clause and substitute the following: "SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 8-7-1103 is amended to read as follows: 8-7-1104. Voluntary cleanup process.

(a) The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality shall have authority regarding a voluntary response program to provide the following:

(1) Opportunities for technical assistance for voluntary response actions;

(2) Adequate opportunities for public participation, including prior notice and opportunity for comment in appropriate circumstances, in selecting response actions;

(3) Streamlined procedures to ensure expeditious voluntary response actions;

(4) Oversight and enforcement authorities or other mechanisms that are adequate to ensure that:

(A) Voluntary response actions will protect human health and the environment and be conducted in accordance with applicable federal and state laws; and

(B) If the person conducting the voluntary response action fails to complete the necessary response activities, including operation and maintenance or long-term monitoring activities, the necessary response activities are completed;

(5) Mechanisms for approval of a voluntary response action plan; and

(6) A requirement for certification or similar documentation from the state to the person conducting the voluntary response action indicating that the response is complete.



(b) The department may establish and administer a revolving loan fund to make secured and unsecured loans or grants to eligible participants for the purpose of financing the assessment, investigation, or remedial actions at abandoned industrial, commercial, or agricultural sites.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that there is an urgent need to return abandoned, idled, and underused industrial, commercial, and agricultural properties, otherwise known as Brownfield sites, to productive uses; that the state would benefit by allowing grant funds already received from the federal government, as well as future grant awards and other moneys received by the Department of Environmental Quality, to be used to clean-up Brownfield sites; that a successful revolving loan fund program will assist the department to reach its goal of returning Brownfield sites to productive uses. 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 July 1, 2003."

Secretary