

2 State of Arkansas
3 93rd General Assembly
4 Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

SENATE BILL 715

5
6 By: Senator C. Tucker
7 By: Representative Love

8 Filed with: Senate Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs
9 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

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17 CONCERNING THE STATE FLAG OF ARKANSAS; TO
18 AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE SYMBOLS ON
19 THE STATE FLAG OF ARKANSAS; AND TO
20 REDESIGNATE THE STARS ON THE STATE FLAG
21 OF ARKANSAS.
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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27 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

28 The General Assembly finds that:

29 (1) Arkansas was once home to numerous thriving Native American
30 tribes, including the Quapaw, the Osage, the Caddo, and the Tunica;

31 (2) The name "Arkansas" is derived from the Native American word
32 "Acansa", a name that refers to the Quapaw and means "southern place";

33 (3) The forced migration of Native Americans along the Trail of
34 Tears during the 1830s brought even more Native American tribes through
35 Arkansas, such as the Cherokee, who established a large settlement along the
36 Arkansas River near modern-day Russellville before being forced to move

1 again, all the while suffering from disease, drought, and attacks from both
 2 other Native American tribes and neighboring settlers;

3 (4) The designation of the Menard-Hodges Site near Dumas,
 4 Arkansas, as a National Historic Landmark in 1989 as well as the designation
 5 of other sacred sites in Arkansas under President Clinton's 1996 Executive
 6 Order 13007 has allowed the modern Caddo, Cherokee, Osage, Quapaw, and Tunica
 7 to reclaim their ancestral ties to Arkansas;

8 (5) Today, the Arkansas Archeological Survey maintains ten (10)
 9 research stations across the state that work to preserve the history of
 10 Arkansas's original inhabitants;

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

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

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

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

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

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

28
 29 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 1-4-101(b), concerning the meaning of the
 30 symbols on the state flag of Arkansas, is amended to read as follows:

31 (b)(1) The three (3) stars ~~so placed are designed to~~ below the word
 32 "ARKANSAS" represent the:

33 (A) The three (3) nations, France, Spain, and,
 34 collectively, the ~~United States~~ Native American nations, which that have
 35 successively exercised dominion over Arkansas. ~~These stars also indicate~~
 36 that; and

1 (B) Arkansas ~~was~~ as the third state carved out of the
2 Louisiana Purchase.

3 (2) Of ~~these~~ the three (3) stars below the word "ARKANSAS", the
4 twin stars parallel with each other signify that Arkansas and Michigan are
5 twin sister states, ~~having been admitted~~ that were offered admission to the
6 Union together on June 15, 1836, with Arkansas becoming the twenty-fifth
7 state admitted to the Union on June 15, 1836, and Michigan following a few
8 months later on January 26, 1837.

9 (3) The twenty-five (25) white stars on the band of blue show
10 that Arkansas was the twenty-fifth state admitted to the Union.

11 (4) The blue star above the word "ARKANSAS" ~~is to commemorate~~
12 ~~the Confederate States of America~~ represents the United States of America.

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

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17 Referred requested by the Arkansas Senate

18 Prepared by: MBM/KFW
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