

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

State of Arkansas
87th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2009

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1975

By: Representative Williams

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING BONDS OF REDEVELOPMENT
DISTRICTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING BONDS OF REDEVELOPMENT
DISTRICTS.

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

SECTION 1. Legislative intent.

(a) On November 7, 2000, the citizens of Arkansas approved Amendment 78 of the Arkansas Constitution concerning redevelopment financing.

(b) The General Assembly adopted enabling legislation to codify Amendment 78, Arkansas Constitution, with Act 1197 of 2001 authorizing the establishment of redevelopment districts.

(c) Among the stated purposes of Act 1197 of 2001 was the creation of a viable procedure by which local governments could finance redevelopment projects to improve the community, to improve the tax base, and to improve the general economy of the State of Arkansas by providing additional and alternative means for local governments to finance public facilities and residential, commercial, and industrial development and revitalization.

(d) Because of the instability in financial markets and overall economy, it is necessary to modify Act 1197 of 2001 to effectuate the will of the people and the purposes of the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 14-168-308 is amended to read as follows:
14-168-308. Termination of districts.



(a)(1) ~~No~~ A redevelopment district ~~may~~ shall not be in existence for a period longer than twenty-five (25) years, unless under the original redevelopment plan or by amendment of the original redevelopment plan bonds have been issued and the bonds would not be fully paid until after the date that is twenty-five (25) years from the date of creation of the district.

(2) In any event, a redevelopment district shall not be in existence for a period longer than forty (40) years.

(b) The local governing body may set a shorter period for the existence of the district and may also provide that ~~no~~ bonds shall not have a final maturity on a date later than the termination date of the district.

(c) Upon termination of the district, ~~no~~ further ad valorem tax revenues shall not be distributed to the special fund of the district.

(d)(1) The local governing body shall adopt upon the expiration of the time periods set forth in this section an ordinance terminating the redevelopment district.

(2) ~~No~~ A district shall not be terminated so long as bonds with respect to the district remain outstanding.

SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that due to the instability in the financial markets and the need for alternative financing options by local governments to finance redevelopment projects that can act as an economic stimulus for a community, that there is a need to amend the law; and this act is immediately necessary because of the uncertainty of the economy. 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.