

State of Arkansas
88th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2011

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1677

By: Representative Murdock

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT
OF RURAL SERVICES FOR GENERAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL SERVICES
GENERAL IMPROVEMENT APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - GENERAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS. There is hereby
appropriated, to the Department of Rural Services, to be payable from the
General Improvement Fund or its successor fund or fund accounts, the
following:

(A) for grants to fire departments, counties, municipalities, or
subdivisions thereof, or other eligible entities for operating, construction,
improvements, equipment, renovation, and maintenance expenses associated with
the provision of fire protection, search and rescue, emergency medical
services and emergency management programs, in a sum not to exceed
.....\$800,000.

(B) for community improvement grants to counties, for operating,
construction, improvements, equipment, renovation, and maintenance expenses
associated with county fairs and rodeos, in a sum not to exceed
.....\$20,000.

(C) for grants to fire departments or other eligible entities for
operating, construction, improvements, equipment, renovation, and maintenance
expenses associated with the provision of fire protection, in a sum not to



1 exceed.....\$60,000.

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3 SECTION 2. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
4 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

5 Notwithstanding any other rules, regulations or provision of law to the
6 contrary the appropriations authorized in this Act shall not be restricted by
7 requirements that may be applicable to other programs currently administered.
8 New rules and regulations may be adopted to carry out the intent of the
9 General Assembly regarding the appropriations authorized in this Act.

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11 SECTION 3. DISBURSEMENT CONTROLS. (A) No contract may be awarded nor
12 obligations otherwise incurred in relation to the project or projects
13 described herein in excess of the State Treasury funds actually available
14 therefor as provided by law. Provided, however, that institutions and
15 agencies listed herein shall have the authority to accept and use grants and
16 donations including Federal funds, and to use its unobligated cash income or
17 funds, or both available to it, for the purpose of supplementing the State
18 Treasury funds for financing the entire costs of the project or projects
19 enumerated herein. Provided further, that the appropriations and funds
20 otherwise provided by the General Assembly for Maintenance and General
21 Operations of the agency or institutions receiving appropriation herein shall
22 not be used for any of the purposes as appropriated in this act.

23 (B) The restrictions of any applicable provisions of the State
24 Purchasing Law, the General Accounting and Budgetary Procedures Law, the
25 Revenue Stabilization Law and any other applicable fiscal control laws of
26 this State and regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance and
27 Administration, as authorized by law, shall be strictly complied with in
28 disbursement of any funds provided by this act unless specifically provided
29 otherwise by law.

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31 SECTION 4. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General
32 Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations
33 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for
34 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive
35 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget
36 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or

1 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
2 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

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4 SECTION 5. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General
5 Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits the
6 appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the
7 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2011 is essential to the operation of
8 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in
9 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the
10 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2011 could work irreparable harm
11 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental
12 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act
13 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health
14 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2011.