

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 469

5 By: Senator Caldwell
6 By: Representative Speaks
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAWS CONCERNING THE FISH AND
10 WILDLIFE CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM; TO TRANSFER
11 ADMINISTRATION OF THE FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
12 EDUCATION PROGRAM TO THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL
13 SERVICES; TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AND FOR
14 OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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18 AMEND THE LAWS CONCERNING THE FISH AND
19 WILDLIFE CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM;
20 AND TO TRANSFER ADMINISTRATION OF THE
21 FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION EDUCATION
22 PROGRAM TO THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL
23 SERVICES.
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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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28 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings and intent.

29 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

30 (1) Conservation of the fish and wildlife of the state is
31 essential to the economy and ecology of our state;

32 (2) Educating youth regarding conservation issues is an
33 important step in developing a knowledgeable citizenry that appreciates the
34 benefits to the state and its residents of conserving fish and wildlife;

35 (3) A significant portion of the state's conservation efforts
36 take place in rural areas, but people from all over the state travel to these



1 rural areas to interact with the fish and wildlife of the state; and

2 (4) The Department of Rural Services is uniquely qualified to
 3 administer a program that brings together conservation issues and the needs
 4 of rural areas.

5 (b) The General Assembly intends for this act to transfer the
 6 administration of the fish and wildlife conservation education program from
 7 the Department of Education to the Department of Rural Services.

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 9 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-16-1101 is amended to read as follows:

10 6-16-1101. Fish and wildlife conservation education.

11 (a) The Department of ~~Education~~ Rural Services, in consultation with
 12 the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, shall establish school education
 13 programs for fish and wildlife conservation and other purposes consistent
 14 with Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 35.

15 (b) The conservation education programs may include, ~~but not be~~
 16 ~~limited to,~~ without limitation the study of general fish and wildlife
 17 conservation issues, hunter education training, fishing education training,
 18 boating education training, wildlife habitat development, Project WILD, and
 19 the Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs Program.

20 (c)(1) The department shall distribute ~~quarterly~~ annually, in the form
 21 of direct grants, all grant moneys provided by the commission under § 15-41-
 22 209(d) to the school districts, conservation districts, or both located in
 23 the counties where in which the offenses occurred.

24 (2)(A) ~~The counties shall distribute quarterly in the manner~~
 25 ~~prescribed by ordinance of the county quorum courts all of the funds provided~~
 26 ~~by the commission under § 15-41-209(d) for fish and wildlife conservation~~
 27 ~~education and other purposes consistent with Arkansas Constitution, Amendment~~
 28 ~~35, to the school districts or conservation districts, or both, for the sole~~
 29 ~~purpose of approved conservation education programs within the counties. A~~
 30 school district or conservation district that wants to apply for a grant
 31 under this section shall submit an application on the form prescribed by the
 32 department and in accordance with the rules promulgated by the department.

33 (B) The population of a county or the census of a school
 34 district shall not be a factor in determining the eligibility of a school
 35 district or conservation district for a grant under this section.

36 (d) The department shall promulgate rules to administer this section.

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SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 15-6-106(a), concerning the powers and duties of the Department of Rural Services, is amended to read as follows:

(1) To administer the conservation education program established under § 6-16-1101 for the benefit of all school districts and conservation districts in the state, regardless of population.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 15-41-209 is amended to read as follows:
15-41-209. Fines, fees, and costs.

(a) All fines assessed against and collected from persons convicted for infractions of ~~any of~~ the state laws protecting game, fish, fur-bearing animals, or fresh water mussels shall be paid to the county treasurer or the ~~municipal~~ district court clerk of the county ~~wherein~~ in which the fine is assessed and forwarded, as provided, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission.

(b)(1) The county treasurer or ~~municipal~~ district court clerk shall give his or her receipt to ~~any a~~ a person paying ~~the a~~ a fine or to ~~any an~~ an officer of the court making settlement of fines collected.

(2)(A) At the end of each ~~four (4) months, in April, August, and December~~ month, county treasurers or ~~municipal~~ district court clerks shall file a report and forward all fines collected under ~~the provisions of~~ this chapter to the commission.

(B) The report, filed on forms provided by the commission, shall include:

- (i) The name of each defendant;
- (ii) The court case number;
- (iii) The name of the arresting officer; and
- (iv) The amount of the fine.

(c) ~~The~~ Upon receipt of the fines described in subsection (b) of this section, the commission shall, ~~upon receipt thereof,~~ deposit the ~~same~~ fines with the Treasurer of State who shall deposit the ~~moneys~~ fines as special revenues ~~in~~ into the Game Protection Fund.

(d) ~~All or any~~ A portion of the ~~fine moneys~~ fines deposited as special revenues ~~in~~ into the fund may be expended by the commission in the form of grants issued to the Department of ~~Education~~ Rural Services for fish and wildlife conservation education and other purposes consistent with Arkansas

1 Constitution, Amendment 35.

2 (e)(1) The commission shall file a written report no later than
3 October 1 of each even-numbered year with the Legislative Council and the
4 Joint Budget Committee indicating the amount of fines deposited into the fund
5 during the prior two (2) fiscal years and the amount of those funds
6 transferred to the department under subsection (d) of this section.

7 (2) If all of the ~~fine moneys~~ fines were not transferred to the
8 department, the commission shall include in its report an explanation as to
9 why all ~~funds~~ fines were not transferred.

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