

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2021-114

1
2 State of Arkansas
3 93rd General Assembly
4 Fiscal Session, 2022
5

A Bill

MLD/MLD
HOUSE BILL

6 By: Representatives Gonzales, K. Ferguson

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

For An Act To Be Entitled

9
10 AN ACT TO RENAME THE TOLTEC MOUNDS ARCHAEOLOGICAL
11 STATE PARK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

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14
15 TO RENAME THE TOLTEC MOUNDS
16 ARCHAEOLOGICAL STATE PARK.
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings and intent.

22 The General Assembly finds that:

23 (1)(A) The Toltec Mounds Archeological State Park, also known as
24 the "Toltec Mounds Site", is an archaeological site in Lonoke County,
25 Arkansas, that protects an eighteen-mound complex with the tallest surviving
26 prehistoric mounds in Arkansas.

27 (B) The site was declared a National Historic Landmark in
28 1978;

29 (2) Construction of the Toltec Mounds Site in Lonoke County,
30 Arkansas is attributed to the Toltec civilization of Mexico;

31 (3) Archaeologists from the Smithsonian Institution's Bureau of
32 Ethnology in 1883 proved that the indigenous ancestors of regional Native
33 Americans had built these mounds for religious, political, and ceremonial
34 purposes;

1 (4)(A) The name "Arkansas" derives from the indigenous word
2 "Arkansia", used to describe the Quapaw Nation of Indians who once occupied
3 this region of the land.

4 (B) A treaty between the United States and the Quapaw
5 Nation of Indians was made and concluded on November 15, 1824, at
6 Harrington's, in the Territory of Arkansas, by the commissioner on the part
7 of the United States and certain chiefs and warriors of the Tribe.

8 (C) The Quapaw Nation ceded to the United States all claim
9 or title that it may have to lands in the Territory of Arkansas.

10 (D) The United States guaranteed to the Quapaw Nation the
11 unhindered right to hunt on the lands ceded by the Quapaw Nation in
12 conformity with the treaty concluded at St. Louis, Territory of Missouri, on
13 August 24, 1818;

14 (5)(A) One of the four (4) principal chiefs to sign the Treaty
15 of 1824 between the United States and the Quapaw Nation was named "Heckaton",
16 also known as "Dry Man".

17 (B) Heckaton was a principal chief who signed the treaties
18 with the United States in 1818, 1824, and 1833, and the treaty of 1833
19 reserved for the Quapaw land in the northeast region of the present day State
20 of Oklahoma, and remains the seat of government for the Quapaw Nation; and

21 (6) The Quapaw Nation maintains a historical connection to the
22 State of Arkansas and recognizes it as its ancestral homeland, as evidenced
23 by the numerous burial and historical sites located throughout the region.
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25 SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Toltec Mounds Archaeological State Park
26 renamed for Chief Heckaton.

27 (a) Toltec Mounds Archaeological State Park shall be renamed "Chief
28 Heckaton Archaeological State Park", and the name shall be changed only by an
29 act of the General Assembly.

30 (b) The Building Authority Division and the State Parks, Recreation,
31 and Travel Commission may make any improvements, arrangements, or contracts
32 or authorize any construction needed to display the name "Chief Heckaton
33 Archaeological State Park" on or near the property formerly known as "Toltec
34 Mounds Archaeological State Park" in furtherance of this act.
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1 Referred by Representative Gonzales

2 Prepared by: MLD/MLD

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