

Act 885 of the 1989 Regular Session.

Act 885

HB1888

By: Representatives Glover & McGinnis

"AN ACT TO TRANSFER THE DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE ARKANSAS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION TO THE ARKANSAS DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Section 15-4-214, Section 15-4-215, Section 15-4-216 and Section 15-4-217 of the Arkansas Code of 1987, as amended, are hereby repealed. In addition, Section 15-4-202 (a) (4), Section 15-4-202 (a) (4) (A) and Section 15-4-202 (a) (4) (B) of the Arkansas Code of 1987, as amended, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 2. Title 15, Chapter 5, of the Arkansas Code of 1987, is hereby amended by adding a new subchapter to it as follows:

"Subchapter 6 - Rural and Agricultural Development.

15-5-601. Rural development generally.

The Arkansas Development Finance Authority shall act as coordinator with other state agencies in forming advisory teams to work with communities in the development of business, industry, and agriculture in the rural areas of the state.

15-5-602. Division of Agriculture Development.

There is hereby created a Division of Agriculture Development within the Arkansas Development Finance Authority. The Division will be staffed with adequate personnel to carry out its duties, as itemized and described in this subchapter and in the Authority's appropriations legislation.

15-5-603. Duties of Division.

The functions of the Division of Agriculture Development shall include:

- (a) Monitor and advise the Governor and the Authority on federal and State legislative issues affecting agriculture;
- (b) Serve as an ombudsman for the agricultural community;
- (c) Identify job creation opportunities in the agriculture business;
- (d) Assist in domestic and international marketing of agricultural products;
- (e) Identify new agricultural business enterprises as well as assist in implementing an agriculture awareness program in this state;
- (f) Identify problems in the agricultural sector and develop necessary policies and programs to address the problems; and
- (g) Perform such other duties as prescribed by the Governor and the Chairman of the Authority.

15-5-604. Advisory capacity of Division.

The Division of Agriculture Development is mandated to serve in an advisory capacity to the development finance functions of the Authority as they may relate to the development of agricultural business enterprises."

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Annotated 15-5-202, is hereby amended by adding a new subsection (f) as follows:

"(f) As vacancies occur, the Governor shall ensure that two (2) of the

ten (10) members represent various agricultural interests in the state.

(1) Those board members representing agriculture shall, in addition to their other duties as board members, function as an Agriculture Subcommittee to oversee and support the Division of Agriculture Development.

(2) This subcommittee shall assist in policy development and program oversight and will be responsible to the Governor and the Arkansas Development Finance Authority as a whole.

SECTION 4. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 5. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. Emergency.

It is hereby found and declared that there is an immediate and urgent need to facilitate the development of agriculture and agricultural businesses in the State of Arkansas. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

APPROVED: March 22, 1989

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