

1 State of Arkansas  
2 92nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2019  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1487

5 By: Representative Blake  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE FLAG OF ARKANSAS; TO  
9 AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE SYMBOLS WITHIN THE STATE  
10 FLAG OF ARKANSAS; TO REDESIGNATE A STAR TO  
11 COMMEMORATE THE NATIVE AMERICANS WHO FIRST INHABITED  
12 ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

15 CONCERNING THE STATE FLAG OF ARKANSAS; TO  
16 AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE SYMBOLS  
17 WITHIN THE STATE FLAG OF ARKANSAS; AND TO  
18 REDESIGNATE A STAR TO COMMEMORATE THE  
19 NATIVE AMERICANS WHO FIRST INHABITED  
20 ARKANSAS.  
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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26 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

27 The General Assembly finds that:

28 (1) Arkansas was once home to numerous thriving Native American  
29 tribes, including the Quapaw, the Osage, the Caddo, the Tunica and the  
30 Chickasaw;

31 (2) The name "Arkansas" is derived from the Native American word  
32 "Acansa", a name that refers to the Quapaw Indians and means "southern  
33 place";

34 (3) The forced migration of Native Americans along the Trail of Tears  
35 during the 1830s brought even more Native American tribes through Arkansas,  
36 such as the Cherokee, who established a large settlement along the Arkansas



1 River near modern-day Russellville before being forced to move again, all the  
 2 while suffering from disease, drought, and attacks both from other Native  
 3 American tribes and neighboring settlers;

4 (4) The designation of the Menard-Hodges Site near Dumas, Arkansas, as  
 5 a National Historic Landmark in 1989 as well as the designation of other  
 6 sacred sites in Arkansas under President Clinton's 1996 Executive Order 13007  
 7 has allowed the modern Caddo, Cherokee, Osage, Quapaw, and Tunica to reclaim  
 8 their ancestral ties to Arkansas;

9 (5) Today, the Arkansas Archeological Survey maintains ten (10)  
 10 research stations across the state that work to preserve the past of  
 11 Arkansas's original inhabitants; and

12 (6) Native American history and culture is an important part of the  
 13 history of this state.

14  
 15 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 1-4-101(b), concerning the meaning of the  
 16 symbols within the state flag of Arkansas, is amended to read as follows:

17 (b)(1) The three (3) stars ~~so placed are designed to~~ below the word  
 18 "ARKANSAS" represent ~~the~~:

19 (A) The three (3) nations, France, Spain, and the United  
 20 States, which that have successively exercised dominion over Arkansas. These  
 21 stars also indicate that; and

22 (B) Arkansas was as the third state carved out of the  
 23 Louisiana Purchase.

24 (2) ~~Of these~~ the three (3) stars below the word "ARKANSAS", the  
 25 twin stars parallel with each other signify that Arkansas and Michigan are  
 26 ~~twin~~ sister states, having been admitted to the Union together on June 15,  
 27 1836 within just months of each other, Arkansas on June 15, 1836 and Michigan  
 28 on January 26, 1837.

29 (3) The twenty-five (25) white stars on the band of blue show  
 30 that Arkansas was the twenty-fifth state admitted to the Union.

31 (4) The blue star above the word "ARKANSAS" is to commemorate  
 32 ~~the Confederate States of America~~ commemorates the heritage and contribution  
 33 of the Quapaw, Osage, and Caddo tribes and the other Native American nations  
 34 who inhabited Arkansas before France or Spain exercised dominion over  
 35 Arkansas.

36 (5) The diamond signifies that this state is the only diamond-

1 bearing state in the Union.

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