

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1736

5 By: Representative Blake
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE FLAG OF ARKANSAS; TO
9 AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE SYMBOLS ON THE STATE
10 FLAG OF ARKANSAS; TO REDESIGNATE THE STARS ON THE
11 STATE FLAG; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
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Subtitle

14 CONCERNING THE STATE FLAG OF ARKANSAS; TO
15 AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE SYMBOLS ON
16 THE STATE FLAG OF ARKANSAS; AND TO
17 REDESIGNATE THE STARS ON THE STATE FLAG.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

24 The General Assembly finds that:

25 (1) Arkansas was once home to numerous thriving Native American
26 tribes, including the Quapaw, the Osage, the Caddo, the Tunica, and the
27 Chickasaw;

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

31 (3) The forced migration of Native Americans along the Trail of
32 Tears during the 1830s brought even more Native American tribes through
33 Arkansas, such as the Cherokee, who established a large settlement along the
34 Arkansas River near modern-day Russellville before being forced to move
35 again, all the while suffering from disease, drought, and attacks both from
36 other Native American tribes and neighboring settlers;



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

6 (5) Today, the Arkansas Archeological Survey maintains ten (10)
 7 research stations across the state that work to preserve the past of
 8 Arkansas’s original inhabitants;

9 (6) Native American history and culture is an important part of
 10 the history of this state; and

11 (7) The territory of Arkansas was admitted to the United States
 12 of America as the twenty-fifth state on June 15, 1836.

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

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

18 (A) The three (3) nations, France, Spain, and,
 19 collectively the ~~United States~~ Native American nations, which have
 20 successively exercised dominion over Arkansas. ~~These stars also indicate~~
 21 ~~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 offered ~~admitted~~ admission to the Union
 27 together on June 15, 1836, with Arkansas becoming the twenty-fifth state
 28 admitted to the United States of America on June 15, 1836, and Michigan
 29 following a few months later on January 26, 1837.

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

32 (4) The blue star above the word “ARKANSAS” is to ~~commemorate~~
 33 ~~the Confederate States of America~~ represent the United States of America.

34 (5) The diamond signifies that this state is the only diamond-
 35 bearing state in the Union.

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