

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

As Engrossed: H3/19/19

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1736

5 By: Representatives Blake, *Gazaway*
6 By: Senators Bond, B. Davis
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

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

25 The General Assembly finds that:

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

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

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



1 other Native American tribes and neighboring settlers;

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

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

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

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

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 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,
 20 collectively the ~~United States~~ Native American nations, which have
 21 successively exercised dominion over Arkansas. ~~These stars also indicate~~
 22 that; and

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

25 (2) Of ~~these~~ the three (3) stars below the word "ARKANSAS", the
 26 twin stars parallel with each other signify that Arkansas and Michigan are
 27 twin sister states, having been offered ~~admitted~~ admission to the Union
 28 together on June 15, 1836, with Arkansas becoming the twenty-fifth state
 29 admitted to the United States of America on June 15, 1836, and Michigan
 30 following a few months later on January 26, 1837.

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

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

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

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/s/Blake