

Department of Finance and Administration

Legislative Impact Statement

Bill: SB920

Amendment Number: S1

Bill Subtitle: TO PROTECT ARKANSAS FARMERS BY REGULATING THE GRAIN INDUSTRY; TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS GRAIN INDEMNITY LAW; AND TO TRANSFER THE ADMINISTRATION OF GRAIN ASSESSMENTS TO THE ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT.

Basic Change : Sponsor: Senator G. Stubblefield

Senate Amendment 1 --- Amends the definition of "grain buyer" to include a marketing agent or the first person that takes delivery of grain from a farmer. The amendment also specifically states that the principal office of the Wheat Promotion Board shall be located at the offices of the Agricultural Department.

Original Bill --- The proposal would create the Arkansas Grain Indemnity Law and transfer the administration of grain assessments to the Arkansas Agriculture Department. This proposal would amend current laws regarding the reporting of promotion assessments; refunds of assessments; and penalties on grain promotion fees collected on soybean, rice, wheat, and corn and sorghum. The bill would transfer the responsibility for collection and administration of these assessments from DFA to the Secretary of the Arkansas Agriculture Department.

Revenue Impact :

No change in the amount of current fee assessments

Taxpayer Impact :

This proposal provides rules for grain buyers which will further regulate the grain industry and provide assistance to Arkansas Farmers.

Resources Required :

None

Time Required :

Adequate time is provided for implementation.

Procedural Changes :

Education of staff in change of law.

Legal Analysis :

Amendment No. 1 to SB920 makes technical changes to the bill. The bill transfers administration of various grain promotion assessments from DFA to the Arkansas Agriculture Department.