

Hall of the House of Representatives

89th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2013

Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Bill No. 1921

TO IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION IN ARKANSAS.

Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 1921

Amend House Bill No. 1921 as originally introduced:

Delete everything after the enacting clause, and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings and intent.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Arkansas has the third largest inland waterway system in the United States and is thirty-fourth in waterway shipments;

(2) Each barge that travels on Arkansas's waterways reduces the number of trucks traveling on Arkansas's roadways by sixty (60), which reduces roadway congestion and highway maintenance costs; and

(3) Arkansas's waterways allow the state's agricultural industry to export crops around the world in a cost-effective manner.

(b) The General Assembly intends for this act to:

(1) Reduce traffic and improve safety on the roadways in Arkansas;

(2) Reduce the cost of maintaining Arkansas roadways; and

(3) Increase Arkansas's ability to be competitive in the worldwide economy.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 15, Chapter 23, Subchapter 2, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

15-23-205. Arkansas Port, Terminal, Intermodal, and Waterway Development Grant Program.

(a)(1) The Arkansas Waterways Commission shall establish and administer the Arkansas Port, Terminal, Intermodal, and Waterway Development Grant Program that shall be used to provide financial assistance to port authorities, private terminals, and intermodal authorities for the purpose of funding port development projects, including without limitation the construction, improvement, capital facility rehabilitation, and expansion of a public or private port facility, including without limitation an intermodal facility and a maritime-related industrial park infrastructure development.

(2) Wharves, cargo handling equipment, utilities, railroads, primary access roads, and buildings that are an integral part of a port development project are also eligible for funding under this section.

(b) The goals of the program are to:

(1) Ensure that adequate land-side facilities are available to



meet a definite market need by providing guidance and public funds to build land-side infrastructure that will provide jobs and competitive transportation costs for moving cargo, thereby minimizing highway congestion, improving safety, and reducing maintenance costs related to Arkansas's highways; and

(2) Provide funding for dredging ports and waterways to allow Arkansas products to reach additional markets.

(c) An Arkansas public port authority, private terminal, or intermodal authority may apply for funding of a port development project under the program.

(d)(1) To apply for funding under the program, a port authority, private terminal, or intermodal authority shall submit an application for funding to the commission on or before June 1 for funding consideration in the following fiscal year.

(2) The application required under subdivision (d)(1) of this section shall include the following:

(A) A description of the port development project;

(B) Evidence that the port authority, private terminal, or intermodal authority has an immediate need for the port development project;

(C) A description of the benefits to be derived from the port development project;

(D) A preliminary design of the port development project;

(E) A cost estimate for the port development project;

(F) A description of the port development project area;

and

(G) Any other information or documentation required by the commission.

(e) The funding provided under the program shall not exceed ninety percent (90%) of the cost of construction or fifty percent (50%) of the dredging costs.

(f) The commission shall promulgate rules to implement this section.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This act is effective on and after January 1, 2014."

The Amendment was read _____
By: Representative J. Edwards
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Chief Clerk