

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013
4

As Engrossed: H4/5/13
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1921

5 By: Representative J. Edwards
6

7 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

8 AN ACT TO IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION IN ARKANSAS; AND FOR
9 OTHER PURPOSES.
10

11 **Subtitle**

12 TO IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION IN ARKANSAS.
13
14
15

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
17

18 *SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings and intent.*

19 *(a) The General Assembly finds that:*

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 *(3) Increase Arkansas's ability to be competitive in the*
32 *worldwide economy.*
33

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

36 *15-23-205. Arkansas Port, Terminal, Intermodal, and Waterway*



1 Development Grant Program.

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

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

13 (b) The goals of the program are to:

14 (1) Ensure that adequate land-side facilities are available to
15 meet a definite market need by providing guidance and public funds to build
16 land-side infrastructure that will provide jobs and competitive
17 transportation costs for moving cargo, thereby minimizing highway congestion,
18 improving safety, and reducing maintenance costs related to Arkansas's
19 highways; and

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

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

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

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

31 (A) A description of the port development project;

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

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

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

- 1 (E) A cost estimate for the port development project;
- 2 (F) A description of the port development project area;
- 3 and
- 4 (G) Any other information or documentation required by the
- 5 commission.
- 6 (e) The funding provided under the program shall not exceed ninety
- 7 percent (90%) of the cost of construction or fifty percent (50%) of the
- 8 dredging costs.
- 9 (f) The commission shall promulgate rules to implement this section.

10

11 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This act is effective on and after January

12 1, 2014.

13

14 /s/J. Edwards

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36