

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 499

5 By: Senators B. Johnson, Caldwell, Hill  
6 By: Representatives J. Moore, Fortner  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT REGARDING RICE PROMOTION; TO AMEND THE  
10 ASSESSMENTS ON GROWN RICE; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY;  
11 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12  
13

## Subtitle

15 REGARDING RICE PROMOTION; TO AMEND THE  
16 ASSESSMENTS ON GROWN RICE; AND TO DECLARE  
17 AN EMERGENCY.  
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 2-20-507(a), concerning the assessments  
23 imposed on grown rice, is amended to read as follows:

24 (a) There are imposed and levied:

25 (1) An assessment at the rate of ~~one and thirty-five hundredths~~  
26 two cents (1.35¢) (2¢) per bushel to be paid by the buyer at the first point  
27 of sale, whether within or without the state, on rice grown within the state  
28 or at the point the rice enters into the United States Department of  
29 Agriculture loan program; and

30 (2) An assessment at the rate of ~~one and thirty-five hundredths~~  
31 two cents (1.35¢) (2¢) per bushel to be paid by the producer on all rice  
32 grown within this state.  
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34 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 2-20-507(d), concerning the use of funds  
35 derived from the assessments imposed on grown rice, is amended to read as  
36 follows:



1 (d)(1) The funds derived from the assessment paid by a buyer at the  
 2 first point of sale shall be used for+

- 3 (A) Market development and rice promotion; and
- 4 (B) Basic administration expenses; ~~and~~
- 5 ~~(C) Defraying the costs of referenda that the board may~~  
 6 ~~refer to buyers of rice.~~

7 (2) The funds derived from the assessment paid by a producer  
 8 shall be used for+

- 9 (A) Rice extension and rice research; and
- 10 (B) Basic administration expenses; ~~and~~
- 11 ~~(C) Defraying the costs of referenda that the board may~~  
 12 ~~refer to producers of rice.~~

13 (3) Funds under subdivisions (d)(1) and (2) of this section may  
 14 be applied within or without Arkansas, including regional, national, and  
 15 international applications.

16 (4) The board may use up to twenty percent (20%) of the total  
 17 proceeds of the assessment for purposes deemed necessary by the board,  
 18 including without limitation for:

- 19 (A) Market development;
- 20 (B) Rice promotion;
- 21 (C) Rice extension;
- 22 (D) Rice research; and
- 23 (E) Other activities to advance the Arkansas rice  
 24 industry.

25  
 26 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
 27 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the recognized marketing year,  
 28 which is designated for reporting and analysis of production, marketing, and  
 29 disposition of a commodity, begins on August 1 and ends of July 31 of each  
 30 calendar year for rice; and that the implementation of new rules or processes  
 31 related to rice should be initiated at the beginning of the marketing year in  
 32 order to provide certainty to the rice industry and to advance the economic  
 33 health of the rice industry. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist,  
 34 and this act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace,  
 35 health, and safety shall become effective on August 1, 2023.