

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1841

5 By: Representative L. Johnson
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION CONCERNING
9 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS; TO AMEND THE
10 DEFINITION OF "ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS" UNDER
11 ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 12, § 5; TO ESTABLISH
12 REQUIREMENTS FOR RETAIL FACILITIES THAT QUALIFY AS
13 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS; AND FOR OTHER
14 PURPOSES.
15

Subtitle

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17
18 TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "ECONOMIC
19 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS" UNDER ARKANSAS
20 CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 12, § 5; AND TO
21 ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR RETAIL
22 FACILITIES THAT QUALIFY AS ECONOMIC
23 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.
24

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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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28 SECTION 1. Pursuant to authority granted to the General Assembly by
29 Arkansas Constitution, Article 12, § 5(d), Arkansas Constitution, Article 12,
30 § 5(c)(1), concerning the definition of "economic development projects", is
31 amended to read as follows:

32 (1) "Economic development projects" means the land, buildings,
33 furnishings, equipment, facilities, infrastructure, and improvements that are
34 required or suitable for the development, retention, or expansion of:

35 (A) Manufacturing, production, and industrial facilities;

36 (B) Research, technology, and development facilities;



- 1 (C) Recycling facilities;
- 2 (D) Distribution centers;
- 3 (E) Call centers;
- 4 (F) Warehouse facilities;
- 5 (G) Job training facilities;
- 6 (H) Regional or national corporate headquarters
- 7 facilities; ~~and~~
- 8 (I) Sports complexes designed to host local, state,
- 9 regional, and national competitions, including without limitation baseball,
- 10 softball, and other sports tournaments; and
- 11 (J) Facilities for the retail sale of goods that meet the
- 12 requirements established by the General Assembly;

13

14 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 14-176-102(3), concerning the definitions

15 used under the Local Job Creation, Job Expansion, and Economic Development

16 Act of 2017, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

17 (3) “Economic development project” means the land, buildings,

18 furnishings, equipment, facilities, infrastructure, and improvements that are

19 required or suitable for the development, retention, or expansion of:

- 20 (A) Manufacturing, production, and industrial facilities;
- 21 (B) Research, technology, and development facilities;
- 22 (C) Recycling facilities;
- 23 (D) Distribution centers;
- 24 (E) Call centers;
- 25 (F) Warehouse facilities;
- 26 (G) Job training facilities;
- 27 (H) Regional or national corporate headquarters
- 28 facilities;
- 29 (I) Sports complexes designed to host local, state,
- 30 regional, and national competitions, including without limitation baseball,
- 31 softball, and other sports tournaments; and

32 (J) ~~Facilities~~ A facility for the retail sale of goods

33 that meet the following requirements:

34 (i) The owner of the facility is considering only

35 one (1) site in this state that is in competition with at least one (1) site

36 that is outside of this state;

1 (ii) The number of new full-time jobs that will be
 2 created for the facility exceeds:

3 (a) For a facility located in an urban area,
 4 seventy-five (75); and

5 (b) For a facility located in a rural area,
 6 twenty-five (25);

7 (iii) The annual projected sales for the facility
 8 are at least:

9 (a) Twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) if
 10 the facility is located in an urban area; and

11 (b) Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) if the
 12 facility is located in a rural area;

13 (iv) The owner of the facility has demonstrated
 14 significant levels of planned capital investment, as determined by the
 15 Governor; and

16 (v) The governing bodies of the city and the county
 17 in which the facility will be located facility have each adopted a resolution
 18 in support of the facility;

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 20 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 14-176-102, concerning the definitions used
 21 under the Local Job Creation, Job Expansion, and Economic Development Act of
 22 2017, is amended to add additional subdivisions to read as follows:

23 (13) "Rural area" means an area:

24 (A) With a population below twenty thousand (20,000)
 25 according to the most recent federal decennial census; and

26 (B) That is at least twenty (20) miles from a city or town
 27 with a population of more than twenty thousand (20,000) according to the most
 28 recent federal decennial census; and

29 (14) "Urban area" means an area of the state that is not a rural
 30 area.