

**Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.**

1 State of Arkansas  
2 83rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2001  
4

*As Engrossed: H3/27/01 H3/29/01*

# A Bill

**Act 1601 of 2001**  
HOUSE BILL 1466

5 By: Representatives Jones, Seawel, Allison, Bevis, Biggs, Bolin, Bookout, Boyd, Bradford, Clemons,  
6 Dangeau, Dees, Eason, Ferguson, Glover, Goss, House, G. Jeffress, C. Johnson, King, Milligan, Nichols,  
7 Rankin, Shoffner, M. Steele, Stovall, Thomas, Weaver, White, Willis, Wood  
8 By: Senators K. Smith, Everett, Wilkins  
9

## For An Act To Be Entitled

10  
11 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS DELTA DEVELOPMENT  
12 COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
13  
14

### Subtitle

15  
16 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS DELTA  
17 DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION.  
18  
19

20  
21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
22

23 SECTION 1. For purposes of this act:

24 (1) "Commission" means the Arkansas Delta Development Commission;

25 (2) "Delta Region" means Ashley, Chicot, Drew, Bradley, Union,  
26 Desha, Lincoln, Arkansas, Cleveland, Jefferson, Lonoke, Prairie, Monroe, Lee,  
27 Phillips, St. Francis, Crittenden, White, Woodruff, Cross, Poinsett, Jackson,  
28 Mississippi, Craighead, Calhoun, Lawrence, Greene, Clay, Randolph,  
29 Independence, Sharp, Ouachita, Dallas, Grant, Fulton, Izard, Stone, Searcy,  
30 Marion, Van Buren, and Baxter Counties;

31 (3) "Director" means the executive director of the Arkansas Delta  
32 Development Commission; and

33 (4) "Priority ranking" means the ranking by counties made by the  
34 commission under Section 6 of this act.  
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36 SECTION 2. There is created a commission to be known as the Arkansas

1 Delta Development Commission.

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3 SECTION 3. (a) The Arkansas Delta Development Commission shall consist  
4 of eleven (11) members, each of whom shall be a resident of the Delta region.

5 (b)(1) Two (2) members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

6 (2) Two (2) members shall be appointed by the President Pro  
7 Tempore of the Senate.

8 (3) Six (6) members shall be appointed by the Governor and one (1)  
9 of the six (6) shall be a co-chairman of the committee.

10 (4) One (1) member shall be appointed jointly by the Speaker of  
11 the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and shall be a co-  
12 chairman of the committee.

13 (c)(1) The co-chairs shall each serve one (1) year terms.

14 (2) The remaining nine (9) members shall serve three (3) year  
15 staggered terms, to be determined by lot at the first meeting of the  
16 commission so that three (3) serve one-year terms, three (3) serve two-year  
17 terms, and three (3) serve three-year terms.

18 (d)(1) The co-chair appointed by the Governor may be removed for cause  
19 by the Governor.

20 (2) The co-chair appointed jointly by the Speaker of the House  
21 and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate may be removed for cause by the  
22 Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate acting  
23 jointly.

24 (3) Any of the remaining nine (9) members may be removed for  
25 cause by the co-chairs acting jointly.

26 (e) Any vacancy arising in the membership of the commission for any  
27 reason other than expiration of the regular terms for which the members were  
28 appointed shall be filled by appointment by the person or persons who  
29 appointed the vacating member.

30 (f) Each member of the board may receive expense reimbursement and  
31 stipends in accordance with § 26-16-905.

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33 SECTION 4. (a) The commission shall meet quarterly, and at other such  
34 times as the co-chairs acting jointly shall designate.

35 (b) At least twice annually, the commission shall meet in a place or  
36 places within the Delta region which the commission shall deem appropriate.

1       (c) The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the co-  
2 chairs within thirty (30) days after the effective date of this act.

3       (d) A quorum shall consist of not fewer than six (6) members present at  
4 any regular or special meeting, and a majority affirmative vote of members  
5 attending shall be necessary for the disposition of any business.

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7       SECTION 5. (a) The commission may employ an executive director and fix  
8 his or her compensation, duties, authority, and responsibilities.

9       (b) The director may hire support staff and other personnel as  
10 necessary to properly discharge his duties.

11       (c) The director shall be custodian of all property held in the name of  
12 the commission and shall be, ex officio, the disbursing agent of all funds  
13 available for its use.

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15       SECTION 6. (a) The commission shall:

16               (1) Develop a comprehensive economic profile of each county in  
17 the Delta region;

18               (2) Develop, in cooperation with state, county and local  
19 governments, a coordinated plan to identify those Delta region counties most  
20 in need of economic assistance;

21               (3) Develop priority rankings to ensure that greater resources  
22 are directed to the most distressed Delta region counties, while ensuring that  
23 all Delta region counties receive some assistance;

24               (4)(A) Provide assistance to Delta region counties to help them  
25 meet their cost share responsibilities to other state programs; and

26               (B) Provide cost share assistance on the basis of each  
27 county's priority ranking; and

28               (5) Monitor county priority rankings to ensure that rankings are  
29 revised when necessary or appropriate.

30       (b) The commission shall adopt, and may modify, rules for the conduct  
31 of its business and shall keep a public record of its transactions, findings,  
32 and determinations.

33       (c) The commission shall be charged with the duty of administering the  
34 provisions of this act. The commission may, by resolution, delegate to the  
35 director any of the powers or duties vested in or imposed upon it by this act.  
36 These delegated powers and duties may be exercised by the director in the name

1 of the commission.

2 (d) The commission may promote the development, retention, expansion,  
3 and support of economic opportunities in the Delta region through coordination  
4 with all state agencies, any available assistance programs and through  
5 partnerships with private enterprises in the Delta region.

6 (e) The commission shall provide moneys to public and private nonprofit  
7 programs operating in or for the Delta region to fund research, technical  
8 assistance and any construction of facilities necessary for any such programs.

9 (f)(1) The commission may receive gifts, grants, donations, fee  
10 conveyances, or transfers of money and property, both real and personal, from  
11 private and public sources, or federal, or either; and to sell or dispose of  
12 such property, real and personal, or either, as the commission deems  
13 advisable.

14 (2) Any funds and income from any property so furnished shall be  
15 placed in the State Treasury in the Arkansas Delta Region Trust Fund and shall  
16 be expended in the same manner as other state moneys are expended, upon  
17 vouchers drawn by the director of the commission.

18 (g) The commission shall prepare and publicize through the various  
19 appropriate media, including paid advertisements in instances where  
20 appropriations have been made available for that purpose, information for the  
21 purpose of bringing into and establishing new industry in the state.

22 (h) The commission shall report its activities and progress to the  
23 Legislative Council by October 1 each year.

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25 SECTION 7. (a) All state agencies shall actively cooperate with the  
26 commission.

27 (b) All state agencies shall, to the fullest extent allowed by law,  
28 give priority to the commission's Delta region program.

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30 SECTION 8. The commission shall:

31 (1) Be the chief advisory and oversight body in conjunction with  
32 the Department of Rural Services regarding representation of the state to the  
33 Delta Regional Authority;

34 (2) Administer any federal block grant funds submitted to the  
35 state under the Delta Regional Authority appropriation or action of the Delta  
36 Regional Authority board; and

