

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2023-069

2 State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: S4/5/23

3 94th General Assembly

A Bill

4 Regular Session, 2023

SENATE BILL 499

5
6 By: Senators B. Johnson, Caldwell, Hill

7 By: Representatives J. Moore, Fortner

8 Filed with: Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development

9 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

10 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

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

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16 **Subtitle**

17 *REGARDING RICE PROMOTION; TO AMEND THE*
18 *ASSESSMENTS ON RICE; AND TO DECLARE AN*
19 *EMERGENCY.*

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

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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 2-20-507(a), concerning the assessments
25 imposed on grown rice, is amended to read as follows:

26 (a) There are imposed and levied:

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

32 (2) An assessment at the rate of ~~one and thirty five hundredths~~
33 two cents (1.35¢) (2¢) per bushel to be paid by the producer on all rice
34 ~~grown~~ purchased within this state.

1 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 2-20-507(d), concerning the use of funds
2 derived from the assessments imposed on grown rice, is amended to read as
3 follows:

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

6 (A) Market development and rice promotion; and

7 (B) Basic administration expenses; ~~and~~

8 ~~(C) Defraying the costs of referenda that the board may~~
9 ~~refer to buyers of rice.~~

10 (2) The funds derived from the assessment paid by a producer
11 shall be used for:

12 (A) Rice extension and rice research; and

13 (B) Basic administration expenses; ~~and~~

14 ~~(C) Defraying the costs of referenda that the board may~~
15 ~~refer to producers of rice.~~

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

19 (4) The board may use up to twenty percent (20%) of the total
20 proceeds of the assessment for purposes deemed necessary by the board for:

21 (A) Market development;

22 (B) Rice promotion;

23 (C) Rice extension;

24 (D) Rice research;

25 (E) Rice education and outreach;

26 (F) Rice policy development; and

27 (G) Food safety pertaining to rice.

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

1 and this act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace,
2 health, and safety shall become effective on August 1, 2023.

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/s/B. Johnson

Referred requested by the Arkansas Senate

Prepared by: CRH/SJA