

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 400

5 By: Senator Irvin
6 By: Representatives Milligan, Cavanaugh, Steimel, Cozart, Wooldridge, Vaught
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING AGRICULTURE; TO
9 AMEND THE FAIR-FUNDING PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER
10 PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12 TO AMEND THE FAIR-FUNDING PROGRAM.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 2-36-101 is amended to read as follows:

20 2-36-101. ~~Fair-funding program~~ Funding for livestock shows and fairs -
21 Requirements - Districts.

22 (a) ~~There is created within the Department of Agriculture a fair-~~
23 ~~funding program that shall be used to provide fair funding assistance to~~
24 ~~junior livestock shows, county fairs, district fairs, and the Arkansas State~~
25 ~~Fair and Livestock Show.~~

26 (b) ~~The department shall utilize a historical average of total fair~~
27 ~~funding provided by the State of Arkansas to previous fair funding recipients~~
28 ~~in determining an equitable distribution of available funding appropriated by~~
29 ~~the General Assembly.~~

30 (c)(1)(A) ~~A recipient of fair funding under the fair funding program~~
31 ~~under subsection (a) of this section shall:~~

32 (i) ~~Maintain records of expenditures; and~~

33 (ii) ~~Submit an annual financial report to the~~
34 ~~department and to Arkansas Legislative Audit by the end of each calendar~~
35 ~~year.~~

36 (B) ~~A recipient of fair funding is subject to a decrease~~



1 ~~in future funding if the recipient of fair funding does not:~~

2 ~~(i) Submit an annual financial report as required~~
3 ~~under subdivision (c)(1)(A)(ii) of this section; or~~

4 ~~(ii) Provide proof of yearly continuing education~~
5 ~~requirements under guidance adopted by the department.~~

6 ~~(2) A recipient of fair funding under the fair funding program~~
7 ~~established under subsection (a) of this section is subject to audit by~~
8 ~~Arkansas Legislative Audit (1) The Department of Agriculture is authorized~~
9 ~~to provide financial assistance to livestock shows and fairs.~~

10 ~~(2) Financial assistance provided by the department under~~
11 ~~subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall be in accordance with the~~
12 ~~department's annual appropriation approved by the General Assembly.~~

13 ~~(3) Future fiscal year funding from the state shall not be~~
14 ~~distributed to a livestock show or fair until all requirements of this~~
15 ~~section are met.~~

16 ~~(b)(1) A recipient of financial assistance under subsection (a) of~~
17 ~~this section shall:~~

18 ~~(A) Submit the following items each fiscal year to the~~
19 ~~department and Arkansas Legislative Audit:~~

20 ~~(i) An annual financial report for the previous~~
21 ~~state fiscal year that includes without limitation an accounting of state~~
22 ~~funding utilization;~~

23 ~~(ii) An annual operating plan for the upcoming year;~~
24 ~~and~~

25 ~~(iii) A certificate of good standing from the~~
26 ~~Secretary of State; and~~

27 ~~(B) Be subject to an audit at any time by Arkansas~~
28 ~~Legislative Audit.~~

29 ~~(2) A county fair that utilizes county facilities or county~~
30 ~~funds for a livestock show or fair shall submit the information in~~
31 ~~subdivisions (b)(1)(A)(i)-(iii) of this section to the county quorum court~~
32 ~~for review and approval before submitting to the department and to Arkansas~~
33 ~~Legislative Audit.~~

34 ~~(c) A recipient of financial assistance under this section shall not~~
35 ~~utilize funding provided by the state to pay association fees, dues, or other~~
36 ~~association-related expenses.~~

1 (d) A county extension agent shall serve as a member of a county fair
2 board.

3 (e) An exhibitor may only participate in the district fair of his or
4 her primary residence.

5 (f) The following counties shall be members of the districts as
6 follows:

7 (1) Cleburne County, Fulton County, Independence County, Izard
8 County, Sharp County, Stone County, and Van Buren County shall be in the
9 North Central District;

10 (2) Mississippi County, Craighead County, Greene County, Clay
11 County, Crittenden County, St. Francis County, Cross County, Poinsett County,
12 Jackson County, Lawrence County, Randolph County, Lee County, Woodruff
13 County, and White County shall be in the Northeast District;

14 (3) Baxter County, Boone County, Carroll County, Madison County,
15 Marion County, Newton County, and Searcy County shall be in the Northwest
16 District;

17 (4) Arkansas County, Ashley County, Bradley County, Calhoun
18 County, Chicot County, Cleveland County, Dallas County, Drew County, Grant
19 County, Faulkner County, Lincoln County, Lonoke County, Ouachita County, and
20 Prairie County shall be in the South Arkansas District;

21 (5) Clark County, Columbia County, Garland County, Hempstead
22 County, Hot Springs County, Howard County, Lafayette County, Little River
23 County, Miller County, Montgomery County, Nevada County, Pike County, Saline
24 County, Sevier County, and Union County shall be in the Southwest Arkansas
25 District; and

26 (6) Benton County, Conway County, Crawford County, Franklin
27 County, Johnson County, Logan County, Perry County, Polk County, Pope County,
28 Scott County, Sebastian County, Washington County, and Yell County shall be
29 in the Arkansas-Oklahoma District as provided under § 2-36-307.

30 (g)(1) For purposes of financial assistance under this section, the
31 Four States Fair hosted in Texarkana, Arkansas, shall be treated the same as
32 a district fair under this section.

33 (2) Residency restrictions on exhibitors shall not apply to this
34 subsection (g).

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