

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1576

5 By: Representative Hammer
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PLANNING GRANTS
9 FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
10 RURAL SERVICES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30,
11 2016; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

14 AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL
15 SERVICES - PLANNING GRANTS FOR VOLUNTEER
16 FIRE DEPARTMENTS APPROPRIATION FOR THE
17 2015-2016 FISCAL YEAR.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - PLANNING GRANTS. There is hereby
24 appropriated, to the Department of Rural Services, to be payable from the
25 General Improvement Fund or its successor fund or fund accounts, for grants
26 to Volunteer Fire Departments for statewide planning efforts to assist in
27 lowering Public Protection Classification (PPC) ratings as determined by the
28 Insurance Service Office (ISO) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, the
29 following:
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31 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
32 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>
33 (01) VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT PLANNING GRANTS	<u>\$1,000,000</u>

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35 SECTION 2. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
36 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.



1 DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT FUNDS. The Department of Rural Services working in
 2 conjunction with the Rural Fire Departments Study Committee as created by
 3 A.C.A. §14-272-101 shall establish rules in compliance with Arkansas Code to
 4 disburse grant funds to Volunteer Fire Departments for statewide planning
 5 efforts to assist in lowering Public Protection Classification (PPC) ratings
 6 as determined by the Insurance Service Office (ISO). Rules shall include
 7 matching requirements for planning grant funds and guidelines for hiring
 8 consultants to provide technical assistance and/or assessments to help
 9 volunteer fire departments enhance their performance and improve fire
 10 protection.

11 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2015
 12 through June 30, 2016.

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 14 SECTION 3. DISBURSEMENT CONTROLS. (A) No contract may be awarded nor
 15 obligations otherwise incurred in relation to the project or projects
 16 described herein in excess of the State Treasury funds actually available
 17 therefor as provided by law. Provided, however, that institutions and
 18 agencies listed herein shall have the authority to accept and use grants and
 19 donations including Federal funds, and to use its unobligated cash income or
 20 funds, or both available to it, for the purpose of supplementing the State
 21 Treasury funds for financing the entire costs of the project or projects
 22 enumerated herein. Provided further, that the appropriations and funds
 23 otherwise provided by the General Assembly for Maintenance and General
 24 Operations of the agency or institutions receiving appropriation herein shall
 25 not be used for any of the purposes as appropriated in this act.

26 (B) The restrictions of any applicable provisions of the State Purchasing
 27 Law, the General Accounting and Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue
 28 Stabilization Law and any other applicable fiscal control laws of this State
 29 and regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration,
 30 as authorized by law, shall be strictly complied with in disbursement of any
 31 funds provided by this act unless specifically provided otherwise by law.

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 33 SECTION 4. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General
 34 Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations
 35 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for
 36 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive

1 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget
 2 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or
 3 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
 4 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

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 6 SECTION 5. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General
 7 Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits the
 8 appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the
 9 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2015 is essential to the operation of
 10 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in
 11 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the
 12 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2015 could work irreparable harm
 13 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental
 14 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act
 15 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health
 16 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2015.

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