

1 State of Arkansas  
2 91st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2017  
4  
5 By: Representative Jean

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1704

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF  
9 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION - DISBURSING OFFICER FOR  
10 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT GRANTS; AND FOR  
11 OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

15 AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND  
16 ADMINISTRATION - DISBURSING OFFICER -  
17 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT GRANTS  
18 GENERAL IMPROVEMENT APPROPRIATION.

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

23 SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - GENERAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
24 GRANTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Finance and  
25 Administration - Disbursing Officer, to be payable from the General  
26 Improvement Fund or its successor fund or fund accounts, for grants to the  
27 Economic Development Districts for grants for personal services, operating  
28 expenses, conference expenses, various travel expenses, capital outlay,  
29 reimbursements, professional fees, construction, acquisition, renovation,  
30 maintenance, repairs, supplies, equipment, upgrades, purchase of resources,  
31 grants and other general expenses by fire departments, emergency medical and  
32 management services or programs, Arkansas' Boys and Girls Clubs, Area  
33 Agencies on Aging, senior citizen centers, community centers, recreation  
34 centers, treatment programs, county jails, fairs, rodeos, police departments,  
35 parks, amphitheaters, cemeteries, museums, memorials, after school programs,  
36 water and wastewater control projects, counties or subdivisions thereof,



1 municipalities or subdivisions thereof, nonprofit entities, for profit  
2 entities, local and national organizations, governmental entities, non-  
3 governmental entities, school districts, schools, libraries, associations,  
4 state agencies, boards, commissions, institutions of higher education,  
5 entities providing services or training for the citizens of Arkansas and any  
6 other entity as determined by the Economic Development District, the  
7 following:

8 (A) for the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc., in  
9 a sum not to exceed.....\$8,000,000.

10 (B) for the North Central Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc.,  
11 also referred to as the White River Planning and Development District, in a  
12 sum not to exceed.....\$8,000,000.

13 (C) for the Northeast Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc.,  
14 also referred to as the East Arkansas Planning and Development District, in a  
15 sum not to exceed.....\$8,000,000.

16 (D) for the Southeast Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc., in  
17 a sum not to exceed.....\$8,000,000.

18 (E) for the Southwest Economic Development District of Arkansas, Inc.,  
19 also referred to as the Southwest Planning and Development District, in a sum  
20 not to exceed.....\$8,000,000.

21 (F) for the Western Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc., also  
22 referred to as the Western Arkansas Planning and Development District, in a  
23 sum not to exceed.....\$8,000,000.

24 (G) for the West Central Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc.,  
25 also referred to as the West Central Arkansas Planning and Development  
26 District, in a sum not to exceed.....\$8,000,000.

27 (H) for the Central Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc., also  
28 referred to as the Central Arkansas Planning and Development District, in a  
29 sum not to exceed.....\$8,000,000.

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31 SECTION 2. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
32 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. GENERAL  
33 IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS ADMINISTRATIVE FEE AND MATCHING REQUIREMENT  
34 RESTRICTION. (i) Notwithstanding any other rules, regulations or provision  
35 of law to the contrary disbursement of funding provided by the General  
36 Assembly for the appropriations authorized in this Act shall not be

1 restricted by rules or requirements that may be applicable to other programs  
2 currently administered.

3 (ii) The full amount of funding provided by the General Assembly for  
4 the appropriations in this Act shall be distributed and shall not have any  
5 requirements which reduce the total amount of funding made available to be  
6 disbursed or require a recipient to pay matching funds or fees. Such  
7 requirements not allowed shall include but not be limited to, administrative  
8 fees, administrative cost reimbursements, charges, fees, deductions, any  
9 directive or stipulation requiring a recipient to pay a certain percentage,  
10 set amount, or fee in order to receive funds.

11 (iii) New rules and regulations may be adopted to carry out the intent  
12 of the General Assembly regarding the distribution of funds provided by the  
13 General Assembly for the appropriations authorized in this Act which comply  
14 with (ii) herein.

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

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

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36 SECTION 4. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General

1 Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations  
2 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for  
3 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive  
4 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget  
5 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or  
6 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative  
7 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.  
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9 SECTION 5. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General  
10 Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits the  
11 appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the  
12 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2017 is essential to the operation of  
13 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in  
14 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the  
15 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2017 could work irreparable harm  
16 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental  
17 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act  
18 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health  
19 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2017.  
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