

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1823

4  
5 By: Representative Gonzales

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO RENAME THE TOLTEC MOUNDS ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
9 STATE PARK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

12 TO RENAME THE TOLTEC MOUNDS  
14 ARCHAEOLOGICAL STATE PARK.

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

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19 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings and intent.  
20 The General Assembly finds that:

21 (1)(A) The Toltec Mounds Archeological State Park, also known as  
22 the "Toltec Mounds Site", is an archaeological site in Lonoke County,  
23 Arkansas, that protects an eighteen-mound complex with the tallest surviving  
24 prehistoric mounds in Arkansas.

25 (B) The site was declared a National Historic Landmark in  
26 1978;

27 (2) Construction of the Toltec Mounds Site in Lonoke County,  
28 Arkansas is attributed to the Toltec civilization of Mexico;

29 (3) Archaeologists from the Smithsonian Institution's Bureau of  
30 Ethnology in 1883 proved that the indigenous ancestors of regional Native  
31 Americans had built these mounds for religious, political, and ceremonial  
32 purposes;

33 (4)(A) The name "Arkansas" derives from the indigenous word  
34 "Arkansia", used to describe the Quapaw Nation of Indians who once occupied  
35 this region of the land.

36 (B) A treaty between the United States and the Quapaw



1 Nation of Indians was made and concluded on November 15, 1824, at  
2 Harrington's, in the Territory of Arkansas, by the commissioner on the part  
3 of the United States and certain chiefs and warriors of the Tribe.

4 (C) The Quapaw Nation ceded to the United States all claim  
5 or title that it may have to lands in the Territory of Arkansas.

6 (D) The United States guaranteed to the Quapaw Nation the  
7 unhindered right to hunt on the lands ceded by the Quawpaw Nation in  
8 conformity with the treaty concluded at St. Louis, Territory of Missouri, on  
9 August 24, 1818;

10 (5)(A) One of the four (4) principal chiefs to sign the Treaty  
11 of 1824 between the United States and the Quapaw Nation was named "Heckaton",  
12 also known as "Dry Man".

13 (B) Heckaton was a principal chief who signed the treaties  
14 with the United States in 1818, 1824, and 1833, and the treaty of 1833  
15 reserved for the Quapaw land in the northeast region of the present day State  
16 of Oklahoma, and remains the seat of government for the Quapaw Nation; and

17 (6) The Quapaw Nation maintains a historical connection to the  
18 State of Arkansas and recognizes it as its ancestral homeland, as evidenced  
19 by the numerous burial and historical sites located throughout the region.

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21 SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Toltec Mounds Archaeological State Park  
22 renamed for Chief Heckaton.

23 (a) Toltec Mounds Archaeological State Park shall be renamed "Chief  
24 Heckaton Archaeological State Park", and the name shall be changed only by an  
25 act of the General Assembly.

26 (b) The Building Authority Division and the State Parks, Recreation,  
27 and Travel Commission may make any improvements, arrangements, or contracts  
28 or authorize any construction needed to display the name "Chief Heckaton  
29 Archaeological State Park" on or near the property formerly known as "Toltec  
30 Mounds Archaeological State Park" in furtherance of this act.

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