

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023  
4

As Engrossed: S4/5/23

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 499

5 By: Senators B. Johnson, Caldwell, Hill  
6 By: Representatives J. Moore, Fortner  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

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

### Subtitle

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

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 2-20-507(a), concerning the assessments  
23 imposed on grown rice, is amended to read as follows:

24 (a) There are imposed and levied:

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

30 (2) An assessment at the rate of ~~one and thirty five hundredths~~  
31 two cents (1.35¢) (2¢) per bushel to be paid by the producer on all rice  
32 ~~grown~~ purchased within this state.  
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34 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 2-20-507(d), concerning the use of funds  
35 derived from the assessments imposed on grown rice, is amended to read as  
36 follows:



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

- 3 (A) Market development and rice promotion; and  
4 (B) Basic administration expenses; ~~and~~  
5 ~~(C) Defraying the costs of referenda that the board may~~  
6 ~~refer to buyers of rice.~~

7 (2) The funds derived from the assessment paid by a producer  
8 shall be used for+

- 9 (A) Rice extension and rice research; and  
10 (B) Basic administration expenses; ~~and~~  
11 ~~(C) Defraying the costs of referenda that the board may~~  
12 ~~refer to producers of rice.~~

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

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

- 18 (A) Market development;  
19 (B) Rice promotion;  
20 (C) Rice extension;  
21 (D) Rice research;  
22 (E) Rice education and outreach;  
23 (F) Rice policy development; and  
24 (G) Food safety pertaining to rice.

25  
26 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
27 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the recognized marketing year,  
28 which is designated for reporting and analysis of production, marketing, and  
29 disposition of a commodity, begins on August 1 and ends of July 31 of each  
30 calendar year for rice; and that the implementation of new rules or processes  
31 related to rice should be initiated at the beginning of the marketing year in  
32 order to provide certainty to the rice industry and to advance the economic  
33 health of the rice industry. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist,  
34 and this act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace,  
35 health, and safety shall become effective on August 1, 2023.

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*/s/B. Johnson*

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