A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1782

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE DISTRIBUTION
OF HIGHWAY REVENUE INTEREST INCOME; TO AMEND THE LAW
CONCERNING THE FUTURE TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH FUND
AND THE TRANSPORTATION-RELATED GRANT PROGRAM; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE
DISTRIBUTION OF HIGHWAY REVENUE INTEREST
INCOME; AND TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING
THE FUTURE TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH FUND
AND THE TRANSPORTATION-RELATED GRANT
PROGRAM.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 19-5-1258 is amended to read as follows:
19-5-1258. Future Transportation Research and Workforce Development
Fund.
(a) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, the
Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a miscellaneous
fund to be known as the “Future Transportation Research and Workforce
Development Fund”.
(b) The Future Transportation Research and Workforce Development Fund
shall consist of:
(1) If available after the deposit of the funds required under §
14-143-130, interest income received under § 27-70-204 up to a maximum amount
of five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000) each year from the State Highway
and Transportation Department Fund; and

(2) Any other revenues authorized by law.

(c) The Future Transportation Research and Workforce Development Fund
shall be used by the Arkansas Department of Transportation for distributing
grants under the Transportation-Related Research and Workforce Development
Grant Program, § 27-65-145.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 27-65-145 is amended to read as follows:
027-65-145. Transportation-Related Research and Workforce Development
Grant Program — Definition Definitions.
(a) As used in this section:

(1) “transportation-related research” means the
systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to
establish facts and reach new conclusions to provide resilient and
sustainable logistics, processes, materials, and methods to ensure cost-
effectiveness and the furtherance of education and economic development
concerning all forms of transportation, including without limitation rail,
public transportation, aviation, and waterborne transportation; and

(2) "Workforce development" means industry training,
apprenticeship, and educational programs that foster skills required for
transportation-related personnel development.

(b) The Transportation-Related Research and Workforce Development
Grant Program is established to provide grants to publicly funded
institutions of higher education for transportation-related research or
workforce development.

(c) A publicly funded institution of higher education may submit an
application to receive a grant for transportation-related research or
workforce development to the Arkansas Department of Transportation, which
includes without limitation:

(1) A brief description of the transportation-related research;

(2) An estimate of the cost-effective benefits of the
transportation-related research or workforce development;

(3) The economic development anticipated from the
transportation-related research; and
(4) Any other information requested by the department.

(d) The department may award a grant to a publicly funded institution of higher education using funds available in the Future Transportation Research and Workforce Development Fund for transportation-related research or workforce development that meets the criteria established by the department.

(e) The department and the State Highway Commission shall promulgate rules to implement and administer this section, including without limitation the:

   (1) Application process;

   (2) Disbursement of grant funds; and

   (3) Criteria required under subsection (d) of this section.

APPROVED: 4/25/21