

Another attempt at changing the symbolism of the Arkansas flag has failed in committee. The House State Agencies and Governmental Affairs Committee rejected the bill on Wednesday.

The bill, sponsored by House Minority Leader Charles Blake, D-Little Rock, would change the designation of the blue star above the state's name to represent the United States as opposed to the Confederacy. The bottom three stars would represent France, Spain and Native tribes of Arkansas.

Blake said changing the meaning of the flag would not erase Arkansas's history with the Confederacy, mentioning other memorials commemorating the Civil War and the Confederate soldiers who fought for the south. Blake said the new designation would represent a more inclusive Arkansas.

**FlagBillCC1 :18 "...going forward"**  
**"Our state flag is the largest and most prevalent symbol we can put out to the world. That symbol should be an inclusive symbol. That symbol should be the Arkansas that we all want to be going forward."**

Multiple people spoke against the bill, many of them private citizens who objected to removing the Confederate designation. This was Blake's second bill attempting to change the symbolism of the flag this session.