

Stupid and Outlandish State Laws

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Oct. 9, 2009 - [PRLog](#) -- The state of Arkansas, also known as the Natural State, was originally part of the Louisiana Territory. This area of land was purchased from the French in 1803. Later, as states began to form out of this territory, Arkansas became part of the Missouri Territory and then became its own territory in 1819. It wasn't until June 15, 1836 that Arkansas became the 25th U.S. state admitted to the union.

Almost 30 years later, Arkansas joined 11 other states to form the Confederate States of America causing the Civil War. Troops from Arkansas were sent both to the Confederate Army, as well as the Union Army.
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Arkansas has had several notable accomplishments in its history. As the first state to desegregate its school system, the "Little Rock Nine," the first African Americans allowed to enter Central High school in Arkansas, have become symbols of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States. The state also boasts several famous Americans like Johnny Cash, Maya Angelou, John Grisham and the 42nd President of the United States, Bill Clinton. Arkansas is also the state where Dillard's department stores and the famous Wal-Mart chain were started. The state also is the location for the only diamond mine in the United States.

With all this history, Arkansas has developed some pretty stupid unique laws. After years of confusion over the pronunciation of the state, ARkanSAW became the official pronunciation in 1881. It is illegal to mispronounce the name while in the state. Several other Arkansas laws show the attempt to control the uncontrollable, like the law that states the Arkansas River cannot rise higher than the Main Street Bridge in Little Rock. Also, dogs are not allowed to bark after 6 p.m. Voting is also an area of control as they have capped the voting time to five minutes.

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There are some really crazy laws too. For example, it's illegal to buy or sell blue light bulbs. Why blue? It makes you wonder why a law was passed on the color of light bulb you can buy. Some laws are probably pretty archaic, such as the law that you cannot walk your cow down the middle of Main Street after 1 p.m. on Sunday. Or, that it is illegal to honk your car horn at any establishment where cold drinks or sandwiches are sold after 9 p.m. Flirtation between men and women on the streets of Little Rock can also result in a 30-day jail term. One Arkansas law, that has to have only been in existence since 1948 at the latest, involves one of America's favorite restaurants. It is illegal to suddenly start or stop your car at McDonald's. Could there have been a rash of accidents in the McDonald's parking lot in Arkansas? Stupid, stupid, stupid!

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With the history, fame and diverse landscapes that encompass the state of Arkansas, I suppose they should be able to have some pretty crazy and specific laws. Removing the laws from the record would probably cost more than just ignoring the ones that no longer make sense in today's society.

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