

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 83rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2001
4

As Engrossed: H3/19/01 S4/2/01

A Bill

Act 1559 of 2001
HOUSE BILL 2301

5 By: Representative White
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7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF
10 EDUCATION DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR
11 CONSISTENCY AND RIGOR IN COURSE WORK OFFERED BY
12 LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

14
15 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF
16 EDUCATION DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR
17 CONSISTENCY AND RIGOR IN COURSE WORK
18 OFFERED BY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. (a) The State Board of Education shall develop a plan to
24 be known as the "Comprehensive Plan for Consistency and Rigor in Course
25 Work".

26 (b)(1) The Comprehensive Plan for Consistency and Rigor in Course Work
27 shall be designed to ensure that every public school student has the
28 opportunity to learn rigorous and challenging course work by eliminating low
29 level, general education tracts offered by local public school districts in
30 grades nine through twelve (9-12).

31 (2) The Comprehensive Plan for Consistency and Rigor in Course
32 Work may include a provision for standardizing students' transcripts.

33 (3)(A) The Comprehensive Plan for Consistency and Rigor in
34 Course Work shall require that all academic subject area courses offered by
35 local public school districts in grades nine through twelve (9-12) are to be
36 aligned with the Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks in all academic subject

1 matter areas.

2 (B) These frameworks, developed by the Department of
3 Education, require student demonstration of the rigorous knowledge and skills
4 necessary to succeed in the state's institutions of post-secondary education
5 or to enter the workforce.

6 (c) The State Board of Education shall review the Comprehensive Plan
7 for Consistency and Rigor in Course Work and revise as necessary based on the
8 five-year cycle for school improvement plans required by the Arkansas
9 Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program.

10 (d) The superintendent of each school district shall provide to the
11 Department of Education, by October 1, 2002, and each year thereafter on that
12 date, a written statement of assurance that the content of each academic
13 subject area course in grades nine through twelve (9-12) is aligned to
14 Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks developed by the Department of Education and
15 required in the Comprehensive Plan for Consistency and Rigor in Course Work
16 under subsection (b) of this section.

17 (e) The Department of Education shall monitor compliance with the
18 requirements of this act during the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas
19 Public Schools review visit and during the school improvement planning
20 process as defined by the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and
21 Accountability Program.

22 (f) If the Department of Education determines that a school district
23 has failed to align the academic subject area content of any academic course
24 in grades nine through twelve (9-12) to the Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks in
25 any school containing a combination of these grades, the Department of
26 Education shall cite the noncompliance of each school on the Standards for
27 Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools Annual Report for the school and
28 shall file a noncompliance notation on the school's performance report under
29 § 6-15-1402.

30 (g) The State Board of Education shall promulgate appropriate rules
31 and regulations necessary to carry out the requirements of this act.

32 (h) Nothing in the requirements of this act which targets academic
33 subject area courses in grades nine through twelve (9-12) shall be construed
34 to mean that public school districts are not to be held accountable for
35 aligning the curriculum in grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) to the
36 Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks for all subject matter areas.

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/s/ White

APPROVED: 4/12/2001