

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.

Act 1425 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: S3/8/05 H3/23/05

2 85th General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2005

SENATE BILL 592

4
5 By: Senators Broadway, Bisbee

6 By: Representatives Jackson, Bolin, Mahony, Elliott

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9 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

10 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE DISTANCE LEARNING
11 COORDINATING COUNCIL; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

12
13 **Subtitle**

14 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE DISTANCE
15 LEARNING COORDINATING COUNCIL.

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

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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-47-305 is amended to read as follows:

21 ~~6-47-305.—Arkansas Interagency Distance Learning Review Commission.~~

22 ~~(a)(1) There is established the Arkansas Interagency Distance Learning~~
23 ~~Review Commission.~~

24 ~~(2) The purpose of the commission is to review the state's~~
25 ~~comprehensive distance learning program in order to compile a complete~~
26 ~~catalogue of available distance learning opportunities, address statewide~~
27 ~~policy issues regarding the coordination of services, and foster coordination~~
28 ~~and cooperation in the delivery of services.~~

29 ~~(b) The membership of the commission shall include:~~

30 ~~(1) The Director of the Department of Education;~~

31 ~~(2) The Director of the Department of Higher Education;~~

32 ~~(3) The Director of the Department of Workforce Education;~~

33 ~~(4) The Director of the Arkansas Economic Development~~

34 ~~Commission;~~

35 ~~(5) The Director of the Department of Information Systems; and~~



1 ~~(6) The cochair of the Executive Council of the Presidents~~
2 ~~Council.~~

3 ~~(e) The commission shall meet on a regular basis and shall make~~
4 ~~recommendations to the House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate~~
5 ~~Interim Committee on Education by August 1 of the year preceding the year in~~
6 ~~which the regular session of the General Assembly is held regarding the~~
7 ~~performance and coordination of the state's program of distance learning.~~

8 ~~(d) Staff support shall be provided by the appropriate personnel from~~
9 ~~the Department of Education, the state's public institutions of higher~~
10 ~~education, the Department of Higher Education, and the Department of~~
11 ~~Workforce Education with the assistance of any appropriate staff of the other~~
12 ~~agencies whose directors serve on the commission.~~

13 (a) There is created an advisory body to the Department of Education
14 to be known as the 'Distance Learning Coordinating Council'.

15 (b) The purpose of the coordinating council is to evaluate distance
16 learning activities for grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) education
17 across the State of Arkansas and determine if distance learning activities
18 are being fully utilized through a collaborative process that maximizes the
19 utilization of the state's technical and educational resources.

20 (c) The coordinating council shall consist of the following members:

21 (1) One (1) member who is an employee of the Department of
22 Education appointed by the Director of the Department of Education;

23 (2) One (1) member who is an employee of the Arkansas
24 Educational Television Network appointed by the Director of the Division of
25 Educational Television;

26 (3) One (1) member who is an employee of the Arkansas School for
27 Mathematics, Science and the Arts appointed by the director of the school;

28 (4) One (1) member who is an employee of Office of Information
29 Technology appointed by the Director of the Office of Information Technology,

30 (5) One (1) member who is an employee of the Department of
31 Information Services appointed by the Director of the Department of
32 Information Services;

33 (6) One (1) member who is an employee of the Arkansas Science
34 and Technology Authority appointed by the Director of the Arkansas Science
35 and Technology Authority;

36 (7) One (1) member who is an employee of Department of Workforce

1 Education appointed by the Director of the Department of Workforce Education;

2 (8) One (1) member who is employed by Department of Higher

3 Education appointed by the Director of the Department of Higher Education;

4 (9) One (1) member who is an employee of the Arkansas State

5 Library appointed by the State Librarian;

6 (10) One (1) member who is an employee of an education service

7 cooperative appointed by the Governor from a list of three (3) names

8 submitted by the State Board of Education;

9 (11) One (1) member who is actively engaged in distance learning

10 activities for grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) education appointed

11 by the Governor from the state at large;

12 (12) Two (2) members who are employed by telecommunications

13 companies that are members of the Arkansas Telecommunications Association and

14 appointed as follows:

15 (A) One (1) member shall be employed by a

16 telecommunications company with more than seventy-five thousand (75,000)

17 access lines and shall be appointed by the Governor from a list of three (3)

18 names submitted by the Arkansas Telecommunications Association; and

19 (B) One (1) member shall be employed by a

20 telecommunications company with less than seventy-five thousand (75,000)

21 access lines and shall be appointed by the Governor from a list of three (3)

22 names submitted by the Arkansas Telecommunications Association; and

23 (13) Members added by the Director of the Department of Education to

24 the coordinating council to represent other entities that are associated with

25 grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) distance learning and that come

26 into existence after September 1, 2005.

27 (d)(1) Members shall serve three-year terms and are eligible for

28 reappointment.

29 (2) If a vacancy occurs in an appointed position for any reason,

30 the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

31 (3) The members of the coordinating council shall meet and

32 organize immediately after their appointment and shall elect a chair, a vice

33 chair, and a secretary-treasurer from the membership of the coordinating

34 council.

35 (4) The coordinating council shall meet at least quarterly.

36 (5) Staff support shall be provided by appropriate personnel

1 from the Department of Education, the Department of Workforce Education, the
2 Department of Higher Education, the Division of Public School Academic
3 Facilities and Transportation, the Division of Public School Accountability,
4 the state's public institutions of higher education, and the Office of
5 Information Technology with the assistance of any appropriate staff of the
6 other agencies whose directors serve on the commission.

7 (6) Nonstate employee members shall serve without compensation,
8 but may receive expense reimbursement in accordance with § 25-16-902.

9 (d) The coordinating council shall make recommendations at least
10 annually to the Department of Education, the Division of Public School
11 Academic Facilities and Transportation, the Division of Public School
12 Accountability, and the House and Senate Committees on Education with regard
13 to the following:

14 (1) Distance learning standards and rules;

15 (2) On-line distance learning curriculum;

16 (3) Supplemental distance learning course material;

17 (4) Coordination of distance learning services;

18 (5) Methods for fostering collaborative processes by which
19 distance learning content can be more effectively shared with and delivered
20 to public schools;

21 (6) Strategies for reducing the occurrences of isolated distance
22 learning activities;

23 (7) Options for spreading distance learning costs and increasing
24 the value of shared distance learning services; and

25 (8) Improving utilization of distance learning resources.

26
27 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
28 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Arkansas Supreme Court has
29 determined that current public school academic facilities in the State of
30 Arkansas are inadequate and inequitable; that the General Assembly
31 established the Joint Committee on Educational Facilities to inventory the
32 current condition of school facilities and recommend methods for bringing
33 those facilities into conformity with the court's constitutional
34 expectations; that one of the recommendations of the joint committee is to
35 establish a new advisory body to evaluate distance learning capabilities in
36 the public schools; that the establishment of the Distance Learning

1 Coordinating Council satisfies the recommendations of the joint committee;
2 and that in order to promote the state's efforts to satisfy constitutional
3 expectations with regard to an adequate education, the new coordinating
4 council needs to begin work with the fiscal year beginning July, 2005.
5 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately
6 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall
7 become effective on July 1, 2005.

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/s/ Broadway, et al

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APPROVED: 3/30/2005

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