

Hall of the House of Representatives
84th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2003
Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Bill No. 1307

"AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE TEACHING OF AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AS A
FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN ARKANSAS."

Amendment No. 2 to House Bill No. 1307.

Amend House Bill No. 1307 as engrossed, H2/28/03:

Page 1, line 26, delete "American" and substitute "(a) American"

AND

Page 1, delete line 31 and substitute the following:

"teacher at the public school as approved by the principal.

(b)(1) All public elementary and secondary schools shall recognize American Sign Language as a standard, independent language with its own grammar, syntax, vocabulary, and cultural heritage.

(2) Courses in American Sign Language may be taught for the purpose of contributing to a greater understanding of the social and cultural dimensions of the language, and to encourage and enable increased interaction between persons and deaf and hard of hearing persons in society.

(3) School districts may credit American Sign Language courses toward satisfaction of foreign language requirements.

6-16-134. (a) A school district may grant credit as an elective to a pupil who satisfactorily completes a high school course in American Sign Language.

(b) The State Board of Education shall establish guidelines concerning the qualifications for those teaching an American Sign Language course and for a recommended course of study of American Sign Language.

(c)(1) The State Board of Education shall establish a task force to assist in the development of the guidelines promulgated under this section.

(2) The task force shall consist of nine (9) members as follows:

(A) The President of the Arkansas Association for the Deaf, or his or her designee;

(B) A parent of a deaf child in a mainstreamed program;

(C) A parent of a deaf child in a residential program who is currently enrolled at the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind;

(D) A representative from the foreign language department of a college or university in Arkansas;



(E) The Director of The Interpreter Training School of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, or his or her designee;

(F) A representative from the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind;

(G) Two (2) instructors of American Sign Language, one (1) of whom must be deaf; and

(H) A representative from the State Department of Education.

(d)(1) The first meeting shall be called by the President of the Arkansas Association for the Deaf within three (3) months of the effective date of this section.

(2) At the first meeting, the task force shall select a chairperson from among its members.

(3) The task force shall expire upon completion of the guidelines required under subsection (b) of this section.

(e) The State Department of Education shall provide the necessary administrative and research support for the task force.

(f) Members of the task force shall serve without compensation."

The Amendment was read _____

By: Representative Lendall

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Chief Clerk