

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

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**Subtitle of House Bill No. 2510**

"AN ACT TO REQUIRE PARENTS TO ATTEND SCHOOL CONFERENCES CONCERNING  
DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS WITH THEIR CHILD."

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**Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 2510.**

Amend House Bill No. 2510 as originally introduced:

Page 1, delete line 11, and substitute the following:

"THEIR CHILD AND TO PROVIDE FOR A FINE FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

AND

Delete everything following the enacting clause and substitute the following:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 5 is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

"6-18-514. Disciplinary conferences.

(a) For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Parent" means:

(A) A natural parent, or a person with whom the student resides if the person is a legal guardian, person in loco parentis, or person who has legal custody of a student under a court order; and

(B) A person to whom the written notices are addressed;

(2) "Disciplinary conference" means a meeting scheduled by a school principal for the purpose of requiring a parent to meet with a teacher and principal to discuss a student's disciplinary problems;

(3) "School administrator" means the principal or superintendent or his or her designee in the school district where the student is enrolled;

(4)(A) "Prosecuting authority" means:

(i) The elected district prosecuting attorney, or his appointed deputy, for schools located in unincorporated areas of the county or within cities not having a police or municipal court; or

(ii) The prosecuting attorney of the city for schools located within the city limits of cities having either a police court or a municipal court in which a city prosecutor represents the city for violations of city ordinances or traffic violations.

(b) Parents are required to attend school disciplinary conferences when requested by the school concerning their child's discipline behavior.

(c) School administrators shall provide written notice of scheduled



conferences and shall make a reasonable effort to schedule disciplinary conferences at a time that is convenient with a parent's work schedule.

(1) The second notice for a disciplinary conference shall be sent to the parent's last known address by certified mail, return receipt requested; and

(2) Contain a statement notifying parents that failure to attend disciplinary conferences with the child as requested by a school administrator may subject the parent to have to appear before the district court and to be subject to a civil penalty in an amount as determined by the court, but not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) plus costs of court and any reasonable fees assessed by the court.

(d)(1) Whenever a parent after receiving two (2) written notices fails to attend a second school disciplinary conference within one (1) year, the school administrator may notify the prosecuting authority who may file an action in district court, juvenile court, or other court of competent jurisdiction to subject the parent to a civil penalty in an amount to be determined by the court, but not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) plus costs of court and any reasonable fees assessed by the court.

(2) The penalty shall be forwarded by the court to the school attended by the student.

(3) The prosecuting authority shall be exempt from all filing fees and shall take whatever action is necessary to collect the penalty provided for therein.

(4)(A) The purpose of the penalty set forth in this subsection is to impress upon the parents the importance of their involvement in their child's education.

(B)(i) When assessing penalties, the court shall be aware of any available programs designed to improve the parent-child relationship or parenting skills.

(ii) When practicable and appropriate, the court may utilize mandatory attendance at the programs, attendance with the child in classes or community service requirements in lieu of monetary penalties.

(e) The court may also order the parent to attend any future disciplinary or teacher conferences as required by the school. Failure to attend such conferences may subject the parent to contempt of court."

The Amendment was read \_\_\_\_\_

By: Representative Bennett

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Chief Clerk