

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

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Subtitle of House Bill No. 2879**  
"AN ACT TO AMEND CERTAIN LAWS PERTAINING TO HOME SCHOOLS."  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 2879.**

Amend House Bill No. 2879 as originally introduced:

Delete everything following the enacting clause and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-504 is amended to read as follows:

6-15-504. Home-schooled students - Achievement tests - Enrollment or reenrollment in local schools.

(a) Each student enrolled in a home school program who is considered to be at a grade level, or no more than two (2) years beyond the normal age for the appropriate grade, for which the state mandates norm-referenced tests for public school students shall be tested using a nationally recognized norm-referenced achievement test selected by the State Board of Education.

(b)(1)(A) The administration of the tests required of home-schooled students shall be by the directors of the education service cooperatives established under § 6-13-1001 et seq. or as otherwise designated by the Department of Education.

(B) For the purposes of this section, the superintendents of the Little Rock, North Little Rock, and Pulaski County school districts shall act in lieu of an education service cooperative director.

(2) The directors of the education service cooperatives shall establish a common set of procedures, approved by the Director of the Department of Education, for the proper administration of the tests required by this section.

(3) The administration shall include purchasing the test materials, giving the tests, scoring and interpreting the tests, and reporting test results.

(c) The cost of testing required by this section shall be the responsibility of the department when the tests are administered by the directors of the education service cooperatives or other department designees.

(d) Alternate testing procedures may be approved by the director of an education service cooperative after consultation with the parents of a home-schooled student; provided, however, that any costs associated with an alternate testing procedure shall be the responsibility of the parents.

(e)(1)(A) Any student that refuses to participate in the testing program or the alternate testing program required by this section has not met



the statutory prerequisites for home schooling and shall be subject to the applicable Arkansas laws regarding truancy as any other student.

(B) After a student corrects any refusal to participate in the testing program or the alternate testing program as determined by the Department of Education required by this subsection (e), the student shall be restored to his or her home school status after his or her parent or guardian has complied with all requirements of § 6-15-503.

(2) This subsection (e) shall not be applicable to any parent who can present written acknowledgement that the child has been enrolled in a public, private, or parochial school within thirty (30) days of the administration of the state-mandated achievement test.

(f)(1) Each local school district shall have authority to assess any home-schooled student who enrolls or reenrolls in the district in order to determine proper educational placement.

(2) The local school district shall utilize, among other means of assessment, the norm-referenced test approved by the board to assess the student and shall determine placement in the appropriate grade level as indicated by the test results.

(g) Any home-schooled student who enrolls or reenrolls in a local school district must attend classes for at least nine (9) months immediately prior to graduation before the student can become eligible to receive a high school diploma from the district.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-507 is amended to read as follows:

6-15-507. Ineligibility of home schools for local, state, or federal funds.

(a) Home schools authorized by this subchapter shall are not be eligible for entitled to local, state, or federal funds allocated to a public school district. For purposes of this section, eligible children with disabilities, identified under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq., in home school settings shall be given the same consideration afforded to students in private school settings for special education services as provided for in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.

(b) School districts providing services to home school students shall be eligible for local, state, or federal funds allocated or approved for such services."

The Amendment was read \_\_\_\_\_  
By: Representative Hardwick  
KAS/VJF - 041020030958  
VJF909

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk