Hall of the House of Representatives

84th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2003

Amendment Form

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Subtitle of House Bill No. 2882

"TO CREATE THE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON MATH EXCELLENCE."

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Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 2882.

Amend House Bill No. 2882 as originally introduced:

Delete everything following the enacting clause and substitute the following:
   SECTION 1.   (a)   There is created a commission to be known as the
"Advisory Commission on Math Excellence".
   (b)   The commission shall consist of six (6) members as follows:
        (1)   Two (2) members of the business community appointed by the
Governor;
        (2)   Two (2) members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of
the Senate, one (1) involved in teaching math in higher education and one (1)
involved in vocational technical teaching; and
        (3)   Two (2) members appointed by the Speaker of the House, one
(1) involved in high school math teaching, and one (1) a K-12 curriculum
director.
   (c)   The Governor shall name one (1) of the commission's members to
serve as chair of the commission.
   (d)   If a vacancy occurs in an appointed position for any reason, the
vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.
   (e)(1)   The commission shall meet upon call of the chair of the
commission.
        (2)   Three (3) members of the commission shall constitute a
quorum for the purpose of transacting business.
        (3)   A quorum is required for action of the commission.
        (4)   The commission will meet at times that will not conflict
with classroom teaching.
   (f)(1)   The commission shall review various curricula for math
education of students in grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) and adopt
standards for grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) math for the State of
Arkansas subject to approval of the Department of Education and the State
Board of Education.   The curriculum frameworks for all math courses in grades
K-12 shall be aligned with the new math standards.   The State Department of
Education will develop curriculum frameworks for all math courses and each
school shall develop a curriculum that is aligned with the frameworks.
Current frameworks shall be refined and revised to be more grade level
specific.   Teachers of math will be utilized in the refinement process.

(2) The commission shall advise the Department of Education and the State Board of Education on methods to improve the consistency and continuity of math education in the State of Arkansas to the actual instruction in classrooms with state standards and curriculum frameworks based on adopted standards.

(3) Each year the school will determine if each student is at grade level at the end of the school year. This determination will be based on standardized tests, end of course exams, and grades. If a student is below grade level, the school will provide summer instruction in math for the purpose of remediation. After summer instruction if the student is still below grade level remediation will take place during the next academic year until grade level is reached. Appropriate professional development will be provided math teachers to assist them in working with students. Professional development will be provided for all math teachers in each school when math scores on state tests are below the state average.

(4) After completion of grade eight (8), each student will be evaluated for placement in the appropriate math track. The commission will recommend the appropriate structure for these tracks. If a student does not meet standards at the end of grade twelve (12), one (1) additional year of study will be required to bring the student to an acceptable level of performance in math.

(5) The Department of Education and schools will work together to develop research which will assist in improving the teaching of math in Arkansas. Institutions of higher education will be involved in the research process when it is appropriate.

(g) If the Department of Education fails to adopt the standards recommended by the commission, the Department of Education shall state in writing all the department's and the board's objection to the standards and reasons for not adopting the standards.

(h) The Department of Education shall provide office space and staff assistance to the Advisory Commission on Math Excellence.

(i)(1) The members of the Advisory Commission on Math Excellence shall serve without pay.

(2) All members of the commission may receive expense reimbursement in accordance with Arkansas Code § 25-16-902, to be paid by the Department of Education.

The Amendment was read _____
By: Representative Cleveland
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                                                                                      Chief Clerk