

ARKANSAS SENATE
84th General Assembly - Second Extraordinary Session, 2003
Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Bill No. 1021

"AN ACT PERTAINING TO STATE SCHOOL STANDARDS AND TEACHERS SALARIES;
TO PROVIDE FOR AN ADEQUATE AND EFFICIENT EDUCATION IN ARKANSAS
SCHOOLS AND ADDRESS THE DISPARITY IN TEACHERS SALARIES."

Amendment No. 6 to House Bill No. 1021.

Amend House Bill No. 1021 as engrossed, S1/14/04 (version: 01-14-2004 13:23):

Page 2, delete lines 1 through 18 and substitute the following:

"(1) Attracts and retains the best teachers possible; and
(2) Will be affordable, somewhat predictable, and in keeping with the
state's educational and fiscal objectives."

AND

Page 2, delete lines 32 through 36

AND

Page 3, delete lines 1 through 27 and substitute the following:

"6-17-2404. Minimum teacher compensation schedule for 2004-2005.
(a) The board of directors in each school district in the state shall
pay classroom teachers upon a minimum salary schedule that provides:
(1) Annual increments for education and experience;
(2) A base salary; and
(3) A minimum salary for a teacher with a master's degree and at
least fifteen (15) years of experience.
(b) In school year 2004-2005, each school district in the state shall
have in place a salary schedule that includes the following:
(1) A base salary of at least twenty-seven thousand five hundred
dollars (\$27,500) for teachers with a bachelor's degree and no experience;
(2) A base salary of at least thirty-one thousand six hundred
twenty-five dollars (\$31,625) for teachers with a master's degree and no
experience; and
(3) Unless the school district's present salary schedule exceeds
the minimum requirements of this subsection (b), provision for at least
fifteen (15) annual increments for experience of:
(A) Four hundred fifty dollars (\$450) for a bachelor's



degree; and

(B) Five hundred dollars (\$500) for a master's degree.

(c) For purposes of the salary schedules described in this section, the teacher's experience shall be his or her total years in any school district in the state and shall not be based only upon the years in the school district in which he or she is currently employed."

AND

Delete Section 2 of the bill and substitute the following:

"SECTION 2. (a) The Standards of Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools, as they exist by rule on January 1, 2004 shall apply through the 2004-2005 school year.

(b)(1) On March 1, 2005, the Department of Education shall determine whether each school district meets the Standards of Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools and meets the teacher salary requirements provided by law. If on March 1, 2005, a school district fails to meet the Standards of Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools or the teacher salary requirements, the school district shall be subject to sanctions under The Quality Education Act of 2003, § 6-15-201 et seq.

(2)(A) If, as a result of not meeting the Standards of Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools or the teacher salary requirements as required on March 1, 2005, a school district is ordered to consolidate or to be annexed:

(i) The resulting school district must have at least five hundred (500) students per the district's average daily membership;

(ii) The consolidation or annexation shall be administrative and shall not be construed to require the closing of any school; and

(iii) Any school qualifying as an isolated school under Arkansas Code § 6-20-601 that is in a school district subject to consolidation or annexation under this section shall remain open under the resulting district.

(B) Nothing in this section shall prohibit voluntary consolidation or annexation of a school district."

AND

Delete Section 5 of the bill in its entirety and substitute the following:

"SECTION 5. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 13, is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

6-13-1601. Definitions.

For purposes of this subchapter:

(1) "Average daily membership" means the same as defined under § 6-20-303;

(2) "Education efficiency and adequacy unit" means a cooperative endeavor established under § 6-13-1602; and

(3) "Participating school district" means a school district in an education efficiency and adequacy unit.

6-13-1602. Education efficiency and adequacy units.

(a)(1) By June 1, 2004, every school district, regardless of size,

must be in an education efficiency and adequacy unit.

(2)(A) If the school district has an average daily membership of one thousand five hundred (1,500) students or fewer for the previous school year, the education efficiency and adequacy unit must include at least one (1) other school district.

(B)(i) The selection of school district partners shall be voluntary between the school districts.

(ii) However, if the Department of Education finds on June 1, 2004 that a school district has not selected at least one (1) participating school district as a partner in an education efficiency and adequacy unit, then by July 1, 2004, the department shall assign another school district to the education efficiency and adequacy unit. The school districts must be within a reasonable geographic proximity to one another.

(3) A school district having an average daily membership of more than one thousand five hundred (1,500) students for the previous school year may include another school district in its education efficiency and adequacy unit but is not required to include another school district.

(b) School districts may be partners in more than one (1) education efficiency and adequacy unit during a school year, and any school district may change education efficiency and adequacy units any year.

(c) Each school district shall provide the department with the names of entities in each education efficiency and adequacy unit in which the school district participates.

(d)(1) The partnership between school districts and the establishment of education efficiency and adequacy units under this subchapter shall not be construed to affect the powers of each school district to govern itself.

(2) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to prohibit a school district from engaging in cooperative efforts with other school districts outside of the education efficiency and adequacy unit.

6-13-1603. Higher education and education service cooperative partners.

(a) Any public institution of higher education that is situated within the boundaries of a participating school district shall participate as a partner in the education efficiency and adequacy unit.

(b)(1) Any education service cooperatives that are situated within the boundaries of a participating school district shall participate as a partner in the education efficiency and adequacy unit.

(2) An education service cooperative may participate as a partner in more than one (1) education efficiency and adequacy unit.

(3) This section shall not limit the authority of an education service cooperative to engage in activities outside of the education efficiency and adequacy unit.

6-13-1604. Unit supervisory boards.

(a) Each education efficiency and adequacy unit shall establish a unit supervisory board.

(b)(1) The unit supervisory board shall consist of an equal number of members from each school district in the education efficiency and adequacy unit, each public institution of higher education in the education efficiency and adequacy unit, and each education service cooperative education efficiency and adequacy unit.

(2) At least one (1) school board member from each participating school district shall be a member of the unit supervisory board.

(3) At least one (1) school administrator from each participating school district shall be a member of the unit supervisory board.

(c)(1) Each unit supervisory board shall elect a chair who shall preside over the meetings of the board.

(2) The chair shall be elected to serve a one-year term.

(d) Each unit supervisory board shall meet at three (3) times annually and at least one (1) of the meetings is to take place during the school year.

(e) Each participating school district shall equally furnish reasonable staff assistance to their education efficiency and adequacy unit.

(f) A majority vote of those members present shall be required for any action of the unit supervisory board.

(g) Members of the unit supervisory board shall serve without pay but may receive expense reimbursement from entity that the member represents, if authorized by the entity.

6-13-1605. Duties.

Each unit supervisory board shall:

(1) Develop plans for the efficient operation of the participating school districts in partnership with the other members of the education efficiency and adequacy unit and, if necessary, revise the plans;

(2) Implement the plan for the efficient operation of the participating school districts which shall include, but not be limited to, provisions for sharing:

(A) Certified personnel;

(B) Classified personnel;

(C) Curriculum and programs;

(D) Administrators;

(E) Maintenance and operation costs;

(F) Purchasing power through contracts and bids; or

(G) Any other operation of the school in which

efficiencies can be obtain through cooperation;

(3) Develop plans for enhanced and increased educational opportunities;

(4) Ensure collaboration among the participating school districts, the higher education institution partners, and the education service cooperative partners;

(5) Actively encourage involvement of parents, guardians, community members, and business leaders;

(6) Collect data necessary to evaluate the progress of the participating school districts toward providing an efficient and adequate education and increasing educational opportunities;

(7) By August 1, 2004, and each year thereafter, report to the State Board of Education on:

(A) The plan for the efficient operation of the participating school districts in the education efficiency and adequacy unit; and

(B) The contribution that each partner will make toward the efficient operation and increased educational opportunities of the participating school districts by cooperating and sharing resources; and

(8) By January 1 of each year, report to the state board on the efficiencies achieved and increased educational opportunities through the cooperative efforts of the education efficiency and adequacy unit.

6-13-1606. Student eligibility for activities or classes.

At the discretion of the participating school districts, two (2) or more participating school districts may agree to authorize students in the school districts to be eligible to participate in activities or classes of a participating school district, if the activity or class is not offered in the student's school district.

6-13-1607. State Board of Education -- Rules.

The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to implement this subchapter."

AND

Appropriately renumber the subsequent sections of the bill

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and _____

By: Senator Miller

JDF/CDS - 01-17-2004 08:50

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Secretary