

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

Subtitle of House Bill No. 1106

"THE COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION REORGANIZATION ACT."

Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 1106.

Amend House Bill No. 1106 as originally introduced:

Pages 12 through 14, delete Section 7 and Section 8 and substitute:
"SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 6-20-601 is amended to read as follows:

"6-20-601. Qualifications for receiving isolated funding.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) ~~"isolated school district"~~ "Isolated school district" means a school district that meets any four (4) of the following five (5) criteria:

(1) There is a distance of twelve (12) miles or more by hard-surfaced highway from the high school of the district to the nearest adjacent high school in an adjoining district;

(2) The density ratio of transported students is less than three (3) students per square mile of area;

(3) The total area of the district is ninety-five square miles (95 sq. mi.) or greater;

(4) Less than fifty percent (50%) of bus route miles is on hard-surfaced roads; and

(5) There are geographic barriers such as lakes, rivers, and mountain ranges which would impede travel to schools that otherwise would be appropriate for consolidation, cooperative programs, and shared services;

(2) "Isolated school area" means an isolated school area that meets any four (4) of the following five (5) criteria:

(1) There is a distance of twelve (12) miles or more by hard-surfaced highway from the high school of the district to the nearest adjacent high school;

(2) The density ratio of transported students is less than three (3) students per square mile of area;

(3) The total area of the district is ninety-five square miles (95 sq. mi.) or greater;

(4) Less than fifty percent (50%) of bus route miles is on hard-surfaced roads; and

(5) There are geographic barriers such as lakes, rivers, and mountain ranges which would impede travel to schools that otherwise would be appropriate for cooperative programs and shared services.

(b) An isolated school district or a school district containing an isolated school area shall be eligible to receive isolated funding if:



(1) The district's budget is prepared by the local district with Department of Education approval;

(2) The district or the isolated school area has an average daily membership of less than three hundred fifty (350); and

(3) The district or the isolated school area meets the minimum standards for accreditation of public schools prescribed by law and regulation.

(c) Any school district designated as an isolated school district for the 1996-1997 fiscal year or school district designated as an isolated school district for the 1996-1997 fiscal year that becomes isolated school area that used geographic barriers as one (1) of the four (4) criteria necessary to receive isolated funding shall be allowed to continue to use geographic barriers as a criterion for future allocations of isolated funding.

(d)(1) State financial aid in the form of isolated funding shall be provided to local school districts or isolated school areas qualifying under this section and shall be calculated as follows:

(350-Previous year's average daily membership) divided by eight hundred fifty (850) times the previous year's average daily membership times the base local revenue per student.

(2) There shall be two (2) categories of isolated funding:

(A) Category I isolated funding shall be provided to all school districts and isolated school areas that qualify under this section; and

(B) Category II isolated funding shall be further provided to those school districts and isolated school areas that qualify under this section and have an average daily membership density ratio of less than 1.2 students per square mile and shall be calculated at fifty percent (50%) of Category I funding.

(3) Those school districts and isolated school areas that qualify under this section and whose local revenue per student exceeds the base local revenue per student shall receive isolated funding calculated as follows: (Category I plus Category II) minus (base local revenue per student minus local revenue per student) times the previous year's average daily membership.

(4) In the event that the statewide amount for isolated funding calculated pursuant to this section is less than the amount appropriated for isolated funding, the State Board of Education may include a funding factor in the calculation in § 6-20-303(14)(A) in order to expend up to the appropriated amount.

(e) No school district or isolated school area which may qualify under other law to receive additional state aid because its average daily membership is less than three hundred fifty (350) shall be eligible to receive funding under this section except that a district qualifying under other law for such aid and qualifying for funds under this section may elect to receive funds under this section in lieu of aid under the other.

(f) If an isolated school district is administratively consolidated under § 6-13-1602, than the facilities of the isolated school district shall remain open under the resulting district and the isolated school district shall become an isolated school area.

(g) A school district receiving funding for an isolated school area shall expend the funds solely for the operation, maintenance, and support of the isolated school area.

SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 6-20-303(14), concerning definitions for public school funding, is repealed.

~~(14) "Isolated funding" means the state financial aid provided to local school districts with an average daily membership of fewer than three hundred fifty (350) from funds made available for that purpose and which is calculated as follows:~~

~~(A) (350 Previous year's average daily membership) divided by eight hundred fifty (850) times previous year's average daily membership times the base local revenue per student;~~

~~(B) Local school districts with an average daily membership density of less than one and two tenths (1.2) shall receive additional funds equal to fifty percent (50%) of aid received under subdivision (14)(A) of this section;~~

~~(C) For the purpose of calculating isolated funding, any local school district that has an average daily membership density greater than 5.0 shall be excluded. Provided, however, if a local school district has a local revenue per student less than sixty percent (60%) of the effective average, it shall receive isolated funding;~~

~~(D) No school district shall receive less isolated funding in future years than the district received during the 1996-1997 school year because of subdivision (14)(C) of this section; and~~

~~(E) If the statewide amount for isolated funding calculated pursuant to this section is less than the amount appropriated for isolated funding, the state board may include a funding factor to the calculation in subdivision (14)(A) of this section in order to expend up to the appropriated amount;"~~

The Amendment was read _____

By: Representative Mahony
KAC/TAT - 01-15-2004 14:40
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Chief Clerk