

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

Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 28
"THE COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC EDUCATION REORGANIZATION ACT."

Amendment No. 3 to Senate Bill No. 28.

Amend Senate Bill No. 28 as engrossed, S12/16/03 (version: 12-16-2003 14:52):

Add Representatives C. Johnson, Bledsoe, Borhauer, Harris, Medley, Smith, Agee, Gipson, Hutchinson, Kenney, Lewellen, and White as cosponsors of the bill

AND

Page 1, line 11, delete "TIES" and substitute "DUTIES"

AND

Page 3, delete line 33 through 36 entirely

AND

Page 4, delete lines 1 and 5, and substitute the following:

"(d) The state board shall select an individual to serve as the Director of the Office of Public School Accountability and the director shall serve at the pleasure of the state board.

(e) The director, with guidance and approval from the state board, shall be responsible for hiring all employees of the office."

AND

Page 5, line 7, delete "one hundred (120)" and substitute "one hundred twenty (120)"

AND

Page 6, delete lines 14 and 20 and substitute:

"(d)(1) The state board shall select an individual to serve as the Director of the Office of Public School Academic Facilities and the director shall serve at the pleasure of the state board."



AND

Page 6, delete lines 23 through 25, and substitute

"(e) The director, with guidance and approval from the state board, shall be responsible for hiring all employees of the office."

AND

Page 7, line 29, delete "facilities and technologies" and substitute "facility and technology"

AND

Page 7, line 35, delete "panel" and substitute "office"

AND

Page 8, line 1, delete "panel" and substitute "office"

AND

Page 8, line 7, delete "panel" and substitute "office"

AND

Pages 8 through 14, delete Section 4 and substitute:

"SECTION 4. Creation of the Office of Education Renewal Zones.

(a) There is created an Office of Education Renewal Zones.

(b) The office shall be under the supervision of the State Board of Education.

(c) The state board shall select an individual to serve as the Director of the Office of Education Renewal Zones and the director shall serve at the pleasure of the state board.

(d)(1) The Director of the Office of Education Renewal Zones, with guidance and approval from the state board, shall be responsible for hiring all employees of the office.

(2) The Director of the Department of Higher Education shall assign one (1) individual from the staff of the Department of Higher Education to serve as a liaison to the office.

(e) The office shall be responsible for developing guidelines for the approval of education renewal zone strategic plans and guidelines for the evaluation and reporting of education renewal zone activities.

(f) The office shall approve any education renewal zone strategic plan prior to the disbursement or annual renewal of funds to participating institutions of higher education.

(g)(1) Effective July 1, 2004, any public school, education service cooperative and institution of higher education is authorized to enter into one (1) or more inter-local agreements through which they collaborate to improve public school performance and academic achievement.

(2) Each inter-local agreement shall establish an education renewal zone.

(3) The purpose of an education renewal zone shall be to:

(A) Identify and implement education and management strategies designed specifically to improve public school performance and student academic achievement throughout the State of Arkansas, with special focus on the state's most academically distressed public schools;

(B) Provide for collaboration among the state's smaller schools and districts in order to achieve some of the advantages of economies of scale in providing educational and related activities;

(C) Maximize benefits and outcomes of public schooling by concentrating and coordinating the resources of Arkansas' higher education institutions, the expertise of the regional education service cooperatives, and the technical assistance of other service providers to improve public school performance and student academic achievement; and

(D) Enable small, rural and low-wealth schools to make the best use of the latest cost-effective distance learning technology to enhance curricula and professional development through two-way interactive learning environments.

(h) Each education renewal zone shall consist of the following:

(1) Higher education partner;

(A) The office shall develop, publish and disseminate guidelines for establishing an education renewal zone, including a process for selecting a qualified higher education partner in the fifteen (15) education service cooperative areas in the state and in Pulaski County.

(B)(i) A qualified higher education partner shall:

(a) Be a school with a department of education or a comprehensive four-year teacher preparation program; and

(b) Be capable of demonstrating a willingness and flexibility to restructure its programs and services to meet the needs of the participating grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) schools and school districts.

(ii) The office shall give preference to qualified four-year higher education institutions located within the education service cooperative area.

(C) If there is no qualified four-year higher education institution located within the education service cooperative area, the office may select:

(i) A two-year higher education institution that in collaboration with a qualified four-year educational institution located in another education service cooperative area provides a comprehensive four-year teacher preparation program;

(ii) A qualified higher education institution located in another education service cooperative area; or

(iii) An institution of higher education may serve as the higher education partner for more than one (1) educational service cooperative area.

(2)(A) Education Service Cooperative.

(B) The education service cooperative shall be a full partner in planning, implementing, and evaluating the education renewal zone in its respective service area and shall provide direct services as called for in the education renewal zone plan;

(3) Public Schools.

(A)(i) Public schools may participate in an education renewal zone upon successful application by the public school district of

which the school is a part.

(ii) Public schools designated by the Department of Education as a school in school improvement or a school in a school district designated by the department as being in academic distress shall participate in an education renewal zone and the office shall establish education renewal zones for those schools.

(iii) Acceptance or rejection of the application by a school for admittance to an education renewal zone shall be the responsibility of the office, with consultation from the higher education partner.

(iv) The office may include within an education renewal zone any school within the education service cooperative area provided that no more than ten (10) schools may participate in any single education renewal zone.

(v) The office may designate up to a maximum of three (3) education renewal zones within any single education service cooperative area.

(C) In designating education renewal zones and selecting schools for participation in a particular zone, the office shall give priority to schools that meet one or more of the following criteria:

(i) The school is classified as a school in school improvement or alert status for school improvement under the Arkansas state compliance plan under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C.S. § 6301 et seq.

(ii) The school lies within a school district designated by the Department of Education as in academic distress or financial distress under the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program.

(iii) The school demonstrates an inability to hire and retain highly qualified teachers as defined by the state plan for compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C.S. § 6301 et seq.

(iv) The school demonstrates an inability to provide the minimum number of course offerings as determined by the state through the conventional hiring of qualified teachers.

(v) The school is within a school district with an average daily membership of fewer than one thousand five hundred (1,500) students.

(vi) The school serves a student population that exceeds the statewide average rate of participation in free or reduced price lunch programs.

(4) Local Advisory Group.

(A) Each education renewal zone shall form a local advisory group comprised of a representative of the following groups:

(i) The higher education partner

(ii) The education service cooperative which includes the area in which the education renewal zone is located;

(iii) The public school or school district participating in the education renewal zone; and

(iv) Each community in which there is a school participating in the education renewal zone.

(B) The office may designate up to a maximum of three (3)

education renewal zones within any single education service cooperative area.

(C) The membership and staff of local advisory groups shall be reflective of the diversity of the population being served by the education renewal zone.

(5) Technical Assistance Provider. Any two-year community or technical college, technical support organization, or other entity may participate in the education renewal zone at the discretion of the office and in collaboration with a designated higher education partner and a designated education service cooperative.

(i) The office, the state board and the local school districts shall exercise due diligence to assure that all schools classified as a school in school improvement under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C.S. § 6301 et seq., as in existence on December 1, 2003 are included in a designated education renewal zone.

(j) The office may, at its discretion, include any school regardless of its eligibility under the criteria in subdivisions (h)(3)(C)(i) through (vi) of this section, if it determines that on the basis of location, characteristics of its faculty or leadership, needs of the students, or other factors, that the inclusion of such school significantly strengthens the prospect of the education renewal zone in meeting its school improvement goals.

(k) The office may, at its discretion, change participating schools within each education renewal zone.

(1)(1) Each school participating in an education renewal zone shall develop and implement a school improvement plan.

(2) Each school improvement plan shall at a minimum include the following:

- (A) Goals for improving student achievement;
- (B) Measurable benchmarks for achieving student improvement goals;
- (C) A timeline for reaching goals in improving student achievement; and
- (D) Requirements for services to be provided by the Education Renewal Zone Partners.

(m) The partners within a specific education renewal zone shall develop a strategic plan that is responsive to the needs of the individual school improvement plans.

(n) The education renewal zone strategic plan shall at a minimum provide for the following:

- (A) Collaboration between and among the higher education institution partners, education service cooperatives, schools and communities participating in the education renewal zone, including within the academic departments within the higher education institution partners;
- (B) A comprehensive program of professional development to assure the practical knowledge base of pre-service and in-service teachers with respect to pedagogical practice, content knowledge, and competent use of distance learning technology;
- (C) Enhancement and expansion of local school curricula offerings through the use of two-way interactive television to include advanced placement, dual-credit and advanced high school courses;
- (D) The sharing of faculty for core course offerings when schools are unable to hire highly-qualified teachers in core subject areas

required for college entrance or teachers necessary to meet state accreditation standards;

(E) A strategy to recruit and retain highly-qualified teachers with particular focus on hard-to-staff schools;

(F) A system for mentoring teachers with three (3) or fewer years of professional service;

(G) Active participation of the community in the work of the school;

(H) Active involvement of parents in the academic work of the student; and

(I) A means of collecting the data necessary to evaluate the progress of each participating public school and the education renewal zone in its entirety.

(o) Each education renewal zone, using guidelines and indicators set by the office, shall prepare an annual report to the office describing the progress toward accomplishing the goals of the education renewal zone.

(p) The office, shall prepare an annual report to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the State Board of Education describing the progress toward accomplishing the goals of the individual education renewal zones and the overall education renewal zone program.

(q) The office shall establish a website, accessible by the public, to provide for broad dissemination of both the education renewal zone plans and strategies and the results of the annual reports on progress toward accomplishing the goals of the individual education renewal zones and the overall education renewal zone program."

AND

Page 16, delete line 35, and substitute
"§ 6-13-1601(b)."

AND

Page 17, line 4, delete "seven hundred (700)" and substitute "five hundred (500)"

AND

Page 17, delete line 15 and substitute:
"1602(a)."

AND

Page 17, delete line 20, and substitute:
" of any grades kindergarten through eight (K-8) school facilities.

6-13-1603. Personnel in consolidated school districts.

All school district personnel policies, decisions regarding personnel, and the application of any reduction-in-force policies shall be in compliance with the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1866, the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1871, the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, the Arkansas Civil Rights Act of

1993, § 16-123-101, et seq. and any applicable court orders."

AND

Page 18, line 2, delete "is in" and substitute "is in a"

AND

Page 19, line 31, delete "§§ 6-13-906 and 6-13-907" and substitute "§§ 6-13-905 and 6-13-906"

AND

Page 22, line 12, delete "Chapter 13 Subsection 10" and substitute "Chapter 13, Subchapter 10"

AND

Page 22, line 17, delete "center" and substitute "cooperative"

AND

Page 22, line 33, delete "center" and substitute "cooperative"

AND

Page 25, delete line 3 and substitute the following:

"district.

(3) The interim personnel policies committee shall reflect the diversity of the population of the new school district.

(4) Any personnel policies shall be in compliance with the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1866, the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1871, the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, the Arkansas Civil Rights Act of 1993, § 16-123-101, et seq. and any applicable court orders."

AND

Page 27, line 28, delete "or" and substitute "of"

AND

Page 27, line 30, delete "amended, when" and substitute "amended, or § 6-13-1603, when"

AND

Page 29, delete line 31, and substitute:

"(g) and (h) of this section.

(j) The Arkansas Employment Security Division shall be available to assist laid-off employees as may be appropriate.

(k) The provisions of this section shall not interfere with or

restrict the authority of a school district to comply with applicable court orders regarding personnel matters."

AND

Page 30, line 18, delete "2003-2004" and substitute "2004-2005"

AND

Page 30, line 26, delete "2003-2004" and substitute "2004-2005"

AND

Page 33, delete lines 4 through 8, and substitute the following:
~~"(m) Subsections (f)-(l) of this section shall not apply to any local school district whose minimum salary for teachers exceeds twenty one thousand eight hundred sixty dollars (\$21,860) and whose average salary exceeds the state average salary for teachers for the previous year."~~

AND

Page 33, line 9, delete "(h)" and substitute "(f)"

AND

Page 33, line 21, delete "(i)" and substitute "(g)"

AND

Page 33, line 25, delete "(j)(1)" and substitute "(h)(1)"

AND

Page 33, line 34, delete "Section 18." and substitute "SECTION 18."

AND

Page 36, line 28, delete "center" and substitute "cooperative"

AND

Page 37, line 25, delete "~~(d)(1)(A)(F)(1)(A) Each~~" and substitute "(d)(1)(A)(F)(1)(A) Each"

AND

Page 38, line 26, delete "Type 3" and substitute "Type 2"

AND

Page 38, line 33, delete "Type 3" and substitute "Type 2"

The Amendment was read _____
By: Representative C. Johnson
KAC/TAT - 01-05-2004 10:27
TAT220 _____ Chief Clerk