1	INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2011-222
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3	REQUESTING THAT THE INTERIM SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION STUDY
4	HOW STUDENT PLACEMENT IN NONRESIDENTIAL MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT
5	PROGRAMS IMPACT A STUDENT'S ABILITY TO REMAIN ENROLLED AT HIS OR
6	HER LOCAL SCHOOL AND RECEIVE CLASS CREDIT.
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8	WHEREAS, state law requires school districts to adopt an attendance
9	policy that includes the number of permissible absences; and
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11	WHEREAS, occasionally circumstances beyond a student's control, such as
12	medical conditions, force a student to miss more school than is permitted by
13	school policy; and
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15	WHEREAS, under current state law a student's absenteeism can be used by
16	a school district to deny course credit, promotion, or graduation; and
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18	WHEREAS, current state law gives a school district the discretion to
19	decide whether or not to provide assistance to a student who is absent due to
20	illness, such as mental illness; and
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22	WHEREAS, a student who is receiving treatment in a nonresidential
23	mental health treatment program may not be permitted to receive course
24	credit, be promoted, or graduate if the school district chooses not to
25	provide assistance to that student during his or her treatment if the
26	treatment causes excessive absences; and
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28	WHEREAS, a student who is suffering from a medical condition should not
29	be forced to decide between taking care of his or her health and continuing
30	with his or her education,
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32	BE IT PROPOSED BY THE INTERIM SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION OF THE 88TH
33	GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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35	THAT the Interim Senate Committee On Education study how a student's
36	placement in a nonresidential mental health treatment programs impacts a

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student's ability to remain enrolled at his or her local school and receive
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     class credit.
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     Respectfully submitted,
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     Senator Jimmy Jeffress
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     District 24
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     By: SAG/KFW
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