

As Engrossed: 1/27/93

1 **State of Arkansas**

2 **79th General Assembly**

3 **Regular Session, 1993**

4 **By: Representatives Roberts and Smith**

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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO INCREASE THE RACIAL AND ETHNIC SENSITIVITY OF
9 TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS IN ARKANSAS SCHOOLS BY
10 REQUIRING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP AND
11 IMPLEMENT A STATEWIDE PROGRAM IN RACIAL AND ETHNIC
12 AWARENESS FOR KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE TWELVE (K-12)
13 TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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Subtitle

16 "AN ACT TO INCREASE THE RACIAL AND ETHNIC SENSITIVITY OF
17 K-12 TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS IN ARKANSAS PUBLIC
18 SCHOOLS."

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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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22 SECTION 1. PURPOSE. The General Assembly hereby acknowledges that the
23 citizens of Arkansas come from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds and that
24 the only common meeting ground for many individuals is in the public schools.
25 It is imperative that the persons charged with administration of the public
26 schools, with supervision of students in the classroom, and with parent
27 consultations should be sensitive to racial and ethnic differences among
28 students, parents, fellow teachers, and administrators. Therefore, the
29 purpose of this act is to serve as a mandate to the public schools of Arkansas
30 to increase the racial and ethnic sensitivity of all certified personnel.

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32 SECTION 2. (a) The State Board of Education is hereby authorized and
33 directed to develop, in cooperation with the Arkansas Black History Advisory
34 Committee, an inclusive statewide program to increase the racial and ethnic
35 sensitivity of teachers and administrators in the public schools of this

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1 state.

2 (b) The program shall be implemented during the 1993-94 school year,
3 *contingent upon the availability of state staff development funds for this*
4 *purpose*, and shall serve to assist teachers and administrators in developing a
5 greater awareness of ethnic and racial differences, improving interpersonal
6 skills, and enhancing racial harmony.

7 (c) Participating schools and school districts shall permit their
8 teachers and administrators who have received training in the program to
9 assist in training other teachers and administrators.

10 (d) *Colleges and universities are hereby encouraged to work with*
11 *neighboring local school districts regarding professional development of*
12 *racial and ethnic awareness.*

13 (e) Records shall be kept of the activities authorized by this act and
14 the Department of Education shall report to the Joint Interim Committee on
15 Education, no later than October 15, 1994, the status and impact of this
16 program on the public schools.

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18 SECTION 3. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
19 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
20 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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22 SECTION 4. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
23 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
24 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
25 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
26 act are declared to be severable.

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28 SECTION 5. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
29 hereby repealed.

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/s/J. Roberts, et al

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