

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **79th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1993**
4 **By: Representative Hinshaw**

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE ASSIGNMENT OF ATHLETIC TEAMS OF
9 ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO ATHLETIC CONFERENCES BASED ON
10 TRAVEL TIME AS WELL AS ENROLLMENT; TO REQUIRE THE ARKANSAS
11 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENFORCE THE ACT; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES."

Subtitle

14 "AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE ASSIGNMENT OF ATHLETIC TEAMS TO
15 ATHLETIC CONFERENCES IN ARKANSAS BASED ON TRAVEL TIME AS
16 WELL AS ENROLLMENT."
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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21 WHEREAS, the high schools of Arkansas are assigned to athletic
22 conferences based solely on enrollment and such conference assignments often
23 result in many four-day academic weeks because of an excessive amount of
24 travel; and

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26 WHEREAS, such schedules reduce gate receipts because parents, relatives
27 and friends can attend few, if any, "away" games; and

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29 WHEREAS, such schedules do not allow students to remain in class until
30 the end of the academic day and these schedules do not allow students to
31 return home at a reasonable hour and makes it difficult for athletes to do
32 effective academic work on the following day; and

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34 WHEREAS, as an example, Siloam Springs High School_s 1993-94 conference
35 schedule will require it to travel to compete with teams, like Searcy - 231

1 miles, Pulaski Robinson - 215 miles, Pulaski Oak Grove - 201 miles, Morrilton
2 - 165 miles, and Harrison - 100 miles, etc.

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4 SECTION 1. Effective with the 1994-95 school year, no athletic team of
5 a public school in Arkansas shall be assigned to an athletic conference in
6 such a manner that a visiting team will be required to travel over two (2)
7 hours at an average speed of fifty (50) miles per hour. No public school
8 shall expend any public funds in support of an athletic team which is required
9 to travel in violation of the standards established by this act.

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11 SECTION 2. The Arkansas Department of Education is authorized and shall
12 be required to promulgate any and all necessary rules and regulations to
13 enforce the requirements of this act. The Arkansas Department of Education
14 may withhold the school district_s portion of the Minimum Foundation Aid from
15 any school district in violation of this act or the rules and regulations
16 under its provisions.

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18 SECTION 3. All provisions of this act of 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 provisions of this act or the application thereof to
23 any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect
24 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
25 the invalid provisions 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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