

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR COUNTY-WIDE SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THE
9 STATE; TO CREATE A BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR EACH SUCH
10 DISTRICT; TO PRESCRIBE THE PROCEDURE FOR THE TRANSITION
11 FROM THE PRESENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SYSTEM TO THE SYSTEM
12 PROVIDED FOR HEREIN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

14 "AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR COUNTY-WIDE SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND TO
15 PRESCRIBE A TRANSITION PROCEDURE."
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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20 SECTION 1. Effective July 1, 1995, the entire area of each county in
21 the state shall comprise a single school district and no school district shall
22 include area in more than one (1) county. Provided, any school district which
23 on the effective date of this act is comprised of area in two (2) or more
24 counties in the State of Arkansas or of area in Arkansas and in another state
25 may continue to include area in two (2) or more counties or in Arkansas and
26 another state.

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28 SECTION 2. (a) There is hereby created a board of directors for each
29 school district created by this act. Each such board shall consist of seven
30 (7) members who shall be residents and qualified electors of the district and
31 who shall be owners of real property in the district. The first board of
32 directors of each of the districts created herein shall be elected at the
33 annual school election in 1994, and shall take office July 1, 1994. At the
34 first meeting of the board, the members shall draw lots for terms with four
35 (4) of the initial members to serve terms of five (5) years and three (3)

1 members to serve terms of four (4) years. All successor members shall be
2 elected for terms of five (5) years.

3 (b) A vacancy occurring in any school board position created by this
4 act shall be filled by the remaining members of the board until the next
5 annual school election at which a member shall be elected to fill the position
6 for the remainder of the unexpired term.

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8 SECTION 3. Each school district created by this act shall have the same
9 rights, responsibilities, and privileges, as is now or may hereafter be
10 provided by law. The board of directors of each such district shall have such
11 authority and responsibility as is now or may hereby be vested in local school
12 boards, and the laws in effect on the effective date of this act relating to
13 the management and operation of school districts and the authority and
14 responsibility of local school boards shall, so far as practicable, be
15 applicable to districts created herein and to the boards of directors of such
16 districts. Provided, during the period from July 1, 1994 to June 30, 1995
17 inclusive, the only authority and responsibility of the various school boards
18 created herein shall be to prepare a budget for the 1995-96 school year and to
19 propose and submit to the electors of the new districts a tax millage to
20 support the budget for the 1995-96 school year.

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22 SECTION 4. The various school districts in existence during the period
23 of July 1, 1994 through June 30, 1995 shall continue to be administered and
24 managed during the 1994-95 school year by their respective boards of
25 directors, in the manner prescribed by law, except that those existing boards
26 of directors shall have no responsibility or authority to prepare a budget for
27 the 1995-96 school year or to propose a tax millage to be voted on by the
28 electors of the districts at the 1995 school election. The millage to be
29 submitted for approval of the electors of each district at the 1995 regular
30 school election for support of the 1995-96 school year budget shall be the
31 millage proposed by the board of directors of each district created by this
32 act.

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34 SECTION 5. Each of the school districts created by this act shall
35 assume responsibility for payment of the bonded indebtedness of each former

1 school district of which all or part of the territory is encompassed in the
2 new district created herein. If only a portion of a former district is
3 encompassed in any new district, the new district shall assume responsibility
4 for only that portion of the bonded indebtedness of the former district that
5 the assessed value of taxable property in the area of the former district
6 encompassed in the new district bears to the total assessed value of all
7 taxable property in the total area of the former district.

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9 SECTION 6. Notwithstanding any provisions of this act or any other law,
10 each elementary school facility in operation during the 1994-95 school year
11 shall continue to be maintained and operated as an elementary school facility
12 at least through the 1999-2000 school year. Each such elementary school shall
13 be administered and managed by the board of directors of the district created
14 by this act for the particular county.

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16 SECTION 7. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
17 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
18 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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20 SECTION 8. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
21 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
22 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
23 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
24 act are declared to be severable.

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26 SECTION 9. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
27 hereby repealed.

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