

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003
4

As Engrossed: H2/28/03 H4/2/03

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1307

5 By: Representatives Lendall, Schulte
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE TEACHING OF AMERICAN SIGN
10 LANGUAGE AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
11 IN ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE TEACHING OF
15 AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AS A FOREIGN
16 LANGUAGE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN ARKANSAS.
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1 is amended
25 to add an additional section to read as follows:

26 6-16-133. (a) American Sign Language may qualify as a foreign
27 language for the purpose of meeting requirements for public schools in
28 Arkansas if:

29 (1) The language is taught by a licensed teacher certified to teach
30 American Sign Language; and

31 (2) The course is conducted under the supervision of a licensed
32 teacher at the public school as approved by the principal.

33 (b)(1) All public elementary and secondary schools shall recognize
34 American Sign Language as a standard, independent language with its own
35 grammar, syntax, vocabulary, and cultural heritage.

36 (2) Courses in American Sign Language may be taught for the



1 purpose of contributing to a greater understanding of the social and cultural
2 dimensions of the language, and to encourage and enable increased interaction
3 between persons and deaf and hard of hearing persons in society.

4 (3) School districts may credit American Sign Language courses
5 toward satisfaction of foreign language requirements.

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7 6-16-134. (a) A school district may grant credit as an elective to a
8 pupil who satisfactorily completes a high school course in American Sign
9 Language.

10 (b) The State Board of Education shall establish guidelines concerning
11 the qualifications for those teaching an American Sign Language course and
12 for a recommended course of study of American Sign Language.

13 (c)(1) The State Board of Education shall establish a task force to
14 assist in the development of the guidelines promulgated under this section.

15 (2) The task force shall consist of nine (9) members as follows:

16 (A) The President of the Arkansas Association for the
17 Deaf, or his or her designee;

18 (B) A parent of a deaf child in a mainstreamed program;

19 (C) A parent of a deaf child in a residential program who
20 is currently enrolled at the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind;

21 (D) A representative from the foreign language department
22 of a college or university in Arkansas;

23 (E) The Director of The Interpreter Training School of the
24 University of Arkansas at Little Rock, or his or her designee;

25 (F) A representative from the Arkansas School for the Deaf
26 and Blind;

27 (G) Two (2) instructors of American Sign Language, one (1)
28 of whom must be deaf; and

29 (H) A representative from the State Department of
30 Education.

31 (d)(1) The first meeting shall be called by the President of the
32 Arkansas Association for the Deaf within three (3) months of the effective
33 date of this section.

34 (2) At the first meeting, the task force shall select a
35 chairperson from among its members.

36 (3) The task force shall expire upon completion of the

1 guidelines required under subsection (b) of this section.

2 (e) The State Department of Education shall provide the necessary
3 administrative and research support for the task force.

4 (f) Members of the task force shall serve without compensation.

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/s/ Lendall, et al

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