

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 As Engrossed: H2/28/03 H4/2/03 H4/4/03 S4/16/03

2 84th General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2003

HOUSE BILL 1307

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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 IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN ARKANSAS; AND FOR
11 OTHER PURPOSES.

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Subtitle

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15 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE TEACHING OF
16 AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
17 IN ARKANSAS.

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

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SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1 is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

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6-16-133. (a) American Sign Language may qualify as a foreign language for the purpose of meeting requirements for public schools in Arkansas if the course is conducted under the supervision of a licensed teacher at the public school as approved by the principal.

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

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(2) Courses in American Sign Language may be taught for the purpose of contributing to a greater understanding of the social and cultural dimensions of the language, and to encourage and enable increased interaction between persons and deaf and hard of hearing persons in society.

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(3) The Department of Higher Education and institutions of higher education may accept credit for American Sign Language courses for purposes of scholarship qualifications and admissions requirements.

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

(b) The qualifications for those teaching an American Sign Language course and for a recommended course of study of American Sign Language must be approved the State Board of Education.

(c) By September 1, 2003, the State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this act.

/s/ Lendall