

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: H4/8/03 H4/15/03

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2237

5 By: Representative Pickett
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF HOURS OF
10 TRAINING THAT MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARDS ARE
11 REQUIRED TO TAKE FOLLOWING ELECTION; AND FOR
12 OTHER PURPOSES.
13

Subtitle

15 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF HOURS
16 OF TRAINING THAT MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL
17 BOARDS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE FOLLOWING
18 ELECTION.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-13-629 is amended to read as follows:
24 6-13-629. Training and instruction - Reimbursement.

25 (a)(1)(A)(i) All Beginning July 1, 2003, all members of a school
26 district board of directors elected at each annual school election for an
27 initial or non-continuous term shall receive obtain a minimum of six (6)
28 twelve (12) hours training and instruction in the school laws of this state
29 and in the laws governing the powers, duties, and responsibilities of school
30 boards on or before March 1 of the year following the election.

31 (ii) The training and instruction of the board of
32 directors shall include topics relevant to school laws, school operations and
33 the member's powers, duties, and responsibilities as board of directors'
34 members, including, but not limited to, legal requirements, role
35 differentiation, financial management, and improving student achievement.

36 (B) By December 31 of each calendar year thereafter, in



1 addition to the fifteen (15) hours training requirement in subdivision
2 (a)(1)(A), new members of a school district board of directors shall also
3 comply with all other training requirements contained in this section, for a
4 total of twenty-four (24) hours of training obtained between the time of
5 their election and the end of their first full calendar year of office, and
6 six (6) hours each year thereafter.

7 (C)(i) Beginning January 1, 2004, and every year
8 thereafter, all existing and reelected board members shall obtain a minimum
9 of six (6) hours training and instruction by December 31 of each calendar
10 year.

11 (ii) The training and instruction of the board of
12 directors shall include topics relevant to school laws, school operations and
13 the member's powers, duties, and responsibilities as board of directors'
14 members, including, but not limited to, legal requirements, role
15 differentiation, financial management, and improving student achievement.

16 (D) Hours of training and instruction obtained in excess
17 of the minimum requirements may cumulate and be carried over from year to
18 year.

19 (2) This instruction may be received from an institution of
20 higher learning in this state, from instruction sponsored by the Department
21 of Education, or by an in-service training program conducted by the Arkansas
22 School Boards Association.

23 (3) Any school board member completing a course of instruction
24 shall receive a certification of completion, and a copy shall be entered into
25 the minutes of the local school board on which he or she serves, and
26 forwarded by the local school board to the Department of Education within
27 five (5) days of receipt by the board.

28 ~~(4) Upon having completed the course of instruction meeting the~~
29 ~~minimum requirements of this section, it shall not be necessary for a school~~
30 ~~board member to take an additional course of instruction upon being reelected~~
31 ~~to the school board.~~

32 (4)(A)(i) Should any member of a school district board of
33 directors elected for an initial or non-continuous term, fail to obtain the
34 required training under subdivision (a)(1)(A)(i), by March 1 and fails to
35 correct the deficiency with ninety (90) days from the date of receiving
36 notice of the deficiency, a vacancy shall exist on the board of directors by

1 operation of law from the date of receipt of notification by the
2 superintendent.

3 (ii) On or before March 10 of each year, the
4 Department of Education shall notify, by certified mail, return receipt
5 requested, any school board member that is deficient on any training
6 requirement under subdivision (a)(1)(A)(i).

7 (iii) No vacancy shall exist if a members is granted
8 and extension due to military service of the member or illness as provided
9 under subdivision (a)(5).

10 (B) The Department of Education shall immediately notify
11 the superintendent by certified mail, return receipt requested, with a copy
12 to the board president, of the existence of a vacancy on the board of
13 directors, and the resulting vacancy may be filled by appointment by a
14 majority of the remaining members of the board of directors, as is provided
15 by law.

16 (5) Should any member of a school district board of directors,
17 fail to obtain the required training under subdivisions (a)(1)(B) or
18 (a)(1)(C), the member shall receive a citation from the Department of
19 Education noting the deficiency with a copy mailed to the superintendent and
20 the local school board.

21 (6)(A) If a member of a school district board of directors is
22 unable to obtain the required training because of military service of the
23 member, or illness of the member verified by a written sworn statement from
24 the member's attending physician, the Department of Education shall grant a
25 time extension permitting the member additional time to obtain required
26 training.

27 (B) The issuance of a time extension shall not operate to
28 remove a member of a school district board of directors from office.

29 (b) Local school district boards of directors are authorized to pay
30 per diem and other necessary expenses from funds belonging to the school
31 district and to reimburse school board directors for expenses incurred in
32 attending in-service workshops, conferences, and other courses of training
33 and instruction required in completing ~~a minimum of six (6) hours~~ the
34 training and of instruction as required in subsection (a) of this section.

35 (c) It shall be the responsibility of the Department of Education to
36 receive and maintain records of instructional hours obtained by members of

1 school district boards of directors.
2 (2) The State Board of Education may promulgate rules and
3 regulations consistent with the provisions and intent of this section.
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6 /s/ Pickett
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