

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2354

4
5 By: Representative Mahony
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO DEFINE AN EFFICIENT AND ADEQUATE
10 EDUCATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12
13 AN ACT TO DEFINE AN EFFICIENT AND
14 ADEQUATE EDUCATION.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. Legislative findings.

20 (a) The General Assembly recognizes:

21 (1) That intelligence and virtue are the safeguards of liberty
22 and the bulwark of a free and good government and that the Arkansas
23 Constitution, Article 14, § 1 requires the state to ever maintain a general,
24 suitable, and efficient system of free public schools and to adopt all
25 suitable means to secure to the people the advantages and opportunities of
26 education;

27 (2) That the Arkansas Supreme Court has recently determined that
28 it is the responsibility of the General Assembly to determine what is a
29 general, suitable, and efficient system of free public schools necessary to
30 provide an adequate education in order to meet the requirement of the
31 Arkansas Constitution, Article 14, § 1;

32 (3) That the previous attempts of the Arkansas General Assembly
33 to delegate that responsibility to the Department of Education have been
34 unsuccessful;

35 (4) That other states, specifically the State of Kentucky, have
36 expended much time and resources on studies to define adequate education, and



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1 have arrived at a definition commonly referred to as the “Rose standards”;

2 (5) That many of the “Rose standards” were adopted by the
 3 General Assembly in Act 1108 and Act 1307 of 1997;

4 (6) That the Arkansas Supreme Court has by implication approved
 5 the “Rose standards” for a definition of a general, suitable, and efficient
 6 system of free public schools necessary to provide an adequate education; and

7 (7) That it is necessary that the Arkansas General Assembly
 8 adopt a definition of a general, suitable, and efficient system of free
 9 public schools to provide an adequate education, as required by Arkansas
 10 Constitution, Article 14, § 1, as the first step to:

11 (A) Resolving the question of how to devise a general,
 12 suitable, and efficient system of free public schools that is capable of
 13 giving to all the children of the State of Arkansas the opportunity for an
 14 adequate education; and

15 (B) Determining the costs and appropriate funding
 16 necessary to a general, suitable, and efficient system of free public
 17 schools.

18 (b) The General Assembly finds that a general, suitable, and efficient
 19 system of free public schools necessary to provide an adequate education as
 20 required by Arkansas Constitution, Article 14, § 1, shall have the goal of
 21 providing each and every child with at least the seven (7) following
 22 capacities:

23 (1) Sufficient oral and written communication skills to enable
 24 students to function in a complex and rapidly changing civilization;

25 (2) Sufficient knowledge of economic, social, and political
 26 systems to enable the student to make informed choices;

27 (3) Sufficient understanding of governmental processes to enable
 28 the student to understand the issues that affect his or her community, state,
 29 and nation;

30 (4) Sufficient self-knowledge and knowledge of his or her mental
 31 and physical wellness;

32 (5) Sufficient grounding in the arts to enable each student to
 33 appreciate his or her cultural and historical heritage;

34 (6) Sufficient training or preparation for advanced training in
 35 either academic or vocational fields so as to enable each child to choose and
 36 pursue life work intelligently; and

1 (7) Sufficient levels of academic or vocational skills to enable
2 public school students to compete favorably with their counterparts in
3 surrounding states, in academics or in the job market.
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