

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: H4/1/03  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 2510

5 By: Representative Bennett  
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8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PARENTS TO ATTEND SCHOOL  
10 CONFERENCES CONCERNING DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS WITH  
11 *THEIR CHILD AND TO PROVIDE FOR A FINE FOR FAILURE*  
12 *TO COMPLY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

13 **Subtitle**

14 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PARENTS TO ATTEND  
15 SCHOOL CONFERENCES CONCERNING  
16 DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS WITH THEIR CHILD.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 5 is amended*  
22 *to add an additional section to read as follows:*

23 *"6-18-514. Disciplinary conferences.*

24 *(a) For the purposes of this section:*

25 *(1) "Parent" means:*

26 *(A) A natural parent, or a person with whom the student*  
27 *resides if the person is a legal guardian, person in loco parentis, or person*  
28 *who has legal custody of a student under a court order; and*

29 *(B) A person to whom the written notices are addressed;*

30 *(2) "Disciplinary conference" means a meeting scheduled by a*  
31 *school principal for the purpose of requiring a parent to meet with a teacher*  
32 *and principal to discuss a student's disciplinary problems;*

33 *(3) "School administrator" means the principal or superintendent*  
34 *or his or her designee in the school district where the student is enrolled;*

35 *(4)(A) "Prosecuting authority" means:*

36 *(i) The elected district prosecuting attorney, or*



1 his appointed deputy, for schools located in unincorporated areas of the  
2 county or within cities not having a police or municipal court; or

3 (ii) The prosecuting attorney of the city for schools  
4 located within the city limits of cities having either a police court or a  
5 municipal court in which a city prosecutor represents the city for violations  
6 of city ordinances or traffic violations.

7 (b) Parents are required to attend school disciplinary conferences  
8 when requested by the school concerning their child's discipline behavior.

9 (c) School administrators shall provide written notice of scheduled  
10 conferences and shall make a reasonable effort to schedule disciplinary  
11 conferences at a time that is convenient with a parent's work schedule.

12 (1) The second notice for a disciplinary conference shall be  
13 sent to the parent's last known address by certified mail, return receipt  
14 requested; and

15 (2) Contain a statement notifying parents that failure to attend  
16 disciplinary conferences with the child as requested by a school  
17 administrator may subject the parent to have to appear before the district  
18 court and to be subject to a civil penalty in an amount as determined by the  
19 court, but not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) plus costs of court and  
20 any reasonable fees assessed by the court.

21 (d)(1) Whenever a parent after receiving two (2) written notices fails  
22 to attend a second school disciplinary conference within one (1) year, the  
23 school administrator may notify the prosecuting authority who may file an  
24 action in district court, juvenile court, or other court of competent  
25 jurisdiction to subject the parent to a civil penalty in an amount to be  
26 determined by the court, but not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) plus  
27 costs of court and any reasonable fees assessed by the court.

28 (2) The penalty shall be forwarded by the court to the school  
29 attended by the student.

30 (3) The prosecuting authority shall be exempt from all filing  
31 fees and shall take whatever action is necessary to collect the penalty  
32 provided for therein.

33 (4)(A) The purpose of the penalty set forth in this subsection  
34 is to impress upon the parents the importance of their involvement in their  
35 child's education.

36 (B)(i) When assessing penalties, the court shall be aware

1 of any available programs designed to improve the parent-child relationship  
2 or parenting skills.

3 (ii) When practicable and appropriate, the court may  
4 utilize mandatory attendance at the programs, attendance with the child in  
5 classes or community service requirements in lieu of monetary penalties.

6 (e) The court may also order the parent to attend any future  
7 disciplinary or teacher conferences as required by the school. Failure to  
8 attend such conferences may subject the parent to contempt of court."

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10 /s/ Bennett  
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