

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 2535

4  
5 By: Representatives Cleveland, Dobbins, White, P. Bookout  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON  
10 EDUCATIONAL ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY; AND FOR OTHER  
11 PURPOSES.  
12

## Subtitle

13  
14 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
15 ON EDUCATIONAL ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY.  
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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20 SECTION 1. (a) There is created a committee to be known as the  
21 "Advisory Committee on Educational Access to Technology".

22 (b)(1) The committee shall consist of five (5) members as follows:

23 (i) Two (2) members appointed by a majority vote of the  
24 Senate Technology and Legislative Affairs Committee;

25 (ii) Two (2) members appointed by a majority vote of the  
26 House Committee on Advanced Communication and Information Technology; and

27 (iii) One (1) member appointed by a majority vote of the  
28 Joint Committee on Advanced Communication and Information Technology.

29 (2) The appointees shall be members of Arkansas' business  
30 community engaged in business involving the delivery of technology.

31 (c) The Senate Technology and Legislative Affairs Committee and House  
32 Committee on Advanced Communication and Information Technology shall each  
33 name one of the committees' appointees to serve as cochairs of the committee.

34 (d) If a vacancy occurs in an appointed position for any reason, the  
35 vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

36 (e)(1) The committee shall meet upon call of either or both of the



1 cochairs of the committee.

2 (2) Three (3) members of the committee shall constitute a quorum  
 3 for the purpose of transacting business.

4 (3) A quorum is required for any action of the committee.

5 (f)(1) The committee shall review the technology needs of the Arkansas  
 6 public schools serving the needs of students in grades kindergarten through  
 7 twelve (K-12) and recommend a method to ensure that all school districts and  
 8 students have substantially equal access to technology.

9 (2) The committee shall work with members of the education  
 10 community, the business community, and the Department of Education to  
 11 determine methods for effectively teaching students to use technology and the  
 12 most effective manner in which to incorporate technology into instruction for  
 13 students.

14 (g) The committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
 15 chairs of the Joint Committee on Advanced Communication and Information  
 16 Technology, the House Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on  
 17 Education no later than September 1, 2003, and every six (6) months  
 18 thereafter.

19 (h) The Bureau of Legislative Research employees providing staff  
 20 assistance to the Joint Committee on Advanced Communication and Information  
 21 Technology shall also furnish reasonable staff assistance to the Advisory  
 22 Committee on Educational Access to Technology.

23 (i)(1) The members of the Advisory Committee on Educational Access to  
 24 Technology shall serve without pay.

25 (2) All members of the commission may receive expense  
 26 reimbursement in accordance with Arkansas Code § 25-16-902, to be paid by the  
 27 Bureau of Legislative Research.

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 29 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
 30 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Arkansas Supreme Court has  
 31 ruled that the current system of education in Arkansas is inadequate and  
 32 inequitable, and has instructed the General Assembly to define what is  
 33 necessary to provide an adequate and equitable education for the children of  
 34 Arkansas, and has assigned to the General Assembly the responsibility to  
 35 assess, evaluate, and monitor public education across the state to ensure  
 36 that an equal educational opportunity for an adequate education is being

1 substantially afforded to Arkansas' school children. A committee must be  
2 formed to determine if substantially equal access to technology is being  
3 afforded Arkansas' school children and a delay in the formation will prevent  
4 the committee from having adequate measures in place for the relief from the  
5 court's stay on January 1, 2004. Therefore, an emergency is declared to  
6 exist and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the  
7 public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

8 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

9 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
10 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the  
11 bill; or

12 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
13 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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