

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 2708

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

8
9 AN ACT TO CREATE A UNIFORM FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING
10 AND REPORTING SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION; TO
11 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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14 AN ACT TO CREATE A UNIFORM FINANCIAL
15 ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING SYSTEM FOR
16 PUBLIC EDUCATION; TO DECLARE AN
17 EMERGENCY.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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SECTION 1. Title.

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23 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Uniform Financial
24 Accounting and Reporting Act of 2003."
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SECTION 2. Purpose.

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27 The purpose of this act is to:

28 (1) Create and maintain a uniform method of accounting by public
29 schools and public school districts in Arkansas;

30 (2) Require public schools and public school districts to report
31 their expenditures by accounting code in a uniform method to the Arkansas
32 Department of Education, the Arkansas General Assembly, and the patrons of
33 each individual public school district;

34 (3) Allow the State of Arkansas to better monitor and audit
35 expenditures by public schools and public school districts in order to
36 further the state's absolute duty to provide a "general, suitable, and



1 efficient” system of public schools as interpreted by the Supreme Court in
2 Lake View School District No. 25 v. Huckabee, 351 Ark. 31 (2002); and

3 (4) To establish standards as to the amount of public school and
4 public school district resources must be used in actual classroom
5 instruction.

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7 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General
8 Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Arkansas Supreme Court in Lake
9 View School District No. 25 v. Huckabee, 351 Ark. 31 (2002) declared the now
10 extent system of education to be unconstitutional because it is both
11 inequitable and inadequate; and the Arkansas Supreme Court set forth the test
12 for a constitutional system to be one in which the state has an “absolute
13 duty” to provide an “equal opportunity to an adequate education”; and the
14 Arkansas Supreme Court instructed the General Assembly to define and provide
15 what is necessary to provide an adequate and equitable education for the
16 children of Arkansas forthwith. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist
17 and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public
18 peace, health, and safety shall become effective on January 1, 2004.

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