

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

A Bill

SENATE BILL 886

5 By: Senators Argue, Broadway
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7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON
9 EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY; AND FOR OTHER
10 PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12 AN ACT TO CREATE THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON
13 EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY.
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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 legislative committee to be known
21 as the "Joint Committee on Educational Accountability".

22 (b) The committee shall consist of twenty (20) members as follows:

23 (1) Eight (8) members as follows:

24 (A) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Education;

25 (B) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

26 (C) Three (3) members of the Senate Committee on Education
27 to be appointed by the Chair of the Senate Committee on Education; and

28 (D) Three (3) member of the Senate to be appointed by the
29 President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

30 (2) Eight (8) members as follows:

31 (A) The Chair of the House Committee on Education;

32 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives;

33 (C) Three (3) members of the House Committee on Education
34 to be appointed by the Chair of the House Committee on Education; and

35 (D) Three (3) member of the House of Representatives to be
36 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;



1 (3) The cochairst of the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee;
 2 and

3 (4) The cochairst of the Joint Budget Committee who shall serve
 4 as nonvoting ex-officio members.

5 (c) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Education and the Chair of
 6 the House Committee on Education shall serve as cochairst of the committee.

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

9 (e)(1) The committee shall meet upon call of either or both of the
 10 cochairst of the committee.

11 (2) Nine (9) members of the committee shall constitute a quorum
 12 for the purpose of transacting business.

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

14 (f) The committee shall:

15 (1) Review the educational accountability systems of the
 16 Department of Education;

17 (2) Have authority to request the Legislative Joint Auditing
 18 Committee to assist the committee by analyzing, verifying, and reporting
 19 information regarding the performance and adherence to state standards of the
 20 following entities:

21 (A) Department of Education;

22 (B) State Board of Education;

23 (C) Public school districts;

24 (D) Individual public schools;

25 (E) Early childhood education programs; and

26 (F) Any other educational unit in Arkansas or any function
 27 thereof, receiving state-appropriated funds, cash funds, or any other fund
 28 derived under the authority or by virtue of state law; and

29 (3) Monitor any systems or methods adopted by the General
 30 Assembly or the Department of Education to assess, evaluate, and monitor
 31 public education across the state to ensure that an equal educational
 32 opportunity for an adequate education is being substantially afforded to
 33 Arkansas' school children.

34 (g) The committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the
 35 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
 36 Representatives, the Senate Committee on Education, the House Committee on

1 Education, the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee and the Joint Budget
 2 Committee no less than twice per fiscal year.

3 (h) The Bureau of Legislative Research of the Legislative Council
 4 shall furnish reasonable staff assistance to the committee as may be
 5 requested by the committee.

6 (i)(1) The committee may function during the interim between regular
 7 or special sessions of the General Assembly, while the General Assembly is in
 8 session, and while the General Assembly is in recess.

9 (2) If the committee meets at a time when the General Assembly
 10 is not in session, the legislative members of the committee shall be entitled
 11 to per diem and mileage reimbursement at the rate as for attending meetings
 12 of the Legislative Council and the per diem or mileage reimbursement shall be
 13 paid from funds appropriated for the payment of per diem and mileage for
 14 attendance at meetings of interim committees of the General Assembly.

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 16 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
 17 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Arkansas Supreme Court has
 18 ruled that the current system of education in Arkansas is inadequate and
 19 inequitable, and has instructed the General Assembly to define what is
 20 necessary to provide an adequate and equitable education for the children of
 21 Arkansas, and has assigned to the General Assembly the responsibility to
 22 assess, evaluate, and monitor public education across the state to ensure
 23 that an equal educational opportunity for an adequate education is being
 24 substantially afforded to Arkansas' school children. A committee must be
 25 formed to perform that function and ensure that an equal educational
 26 opportunity for an adequate education is being substantially afforded to
 27 Arkansas' school and a delay in the formation will prevent the committee from
 28 having adequate measures in place for the relief from the court's stay on
 29 January 1, 2004. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act
 30 being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health,
 31 and safety shall become effective on:

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

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

36 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is

1 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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