

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Second Extraordinary Session, 2003
4

Call Item 4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1004

5 By: Representative Dangeau
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO PROVIDE ASSESSMENT TEAMS TO ASSIST
10 SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN ACADEMIC OR FINANCIAL
11 DISTRESS AND SCHOOLS IN SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT; AND
12 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

15 AN ACT TO PROVIDE ASSESSMENT TEAMS TO
16 ASSIST TROUBLED SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND
17 SCHOOLS.
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19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 4 is amended
23 to add an additional section to read as follows:

24 6-15-433. Assessment team.

25 (a) Immediately upon classifying a school district as in academic or
26 fiscal distress, or classifying a school or a school district as in school
27 improvement pursuant to § 6-15-425, the Department of Education shall:

28 (1) Contract with an assessment team composed of four (4)
29 members as follows:

30 (A) A teacher, an administrator, and a director of
31 finance, all of whom are employed in an Arkansas public school; and

32 (B) A faculty member from a Arkansas university teacher
33 education program;

34 (2) Ensure that all members of the assessment team have at
35 least five (5) years of experience in education in Arkansas and be well
36 qualified to consult with a school district classified as in academic or



1 fiscal distress, or a school or school district classified as in school
2 improvement; and

3 (3) Name one (1) member of the team as chair.

4 (b)(1) The assessment team shall visit the school or district to make
5 an assessment of the problems and make a written report to the department.

6 (2) The report shall include recommendations for actions to be
7 taken that would remove the school or school district from academic distress,
8 fiscal distress, or the school or school district from the school in
9 improvement list.

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11 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
12 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Arkansas Supreme Court in
13 Lake View District No. 25 v. Huckabee, 351 Ark 31 (2002) declared the
14 existing system of education to be unconstitutional because it is both
15 inequitable and inadequate; and the Arkansas Supreme Court set forth the test
16 for constitutional system to be one in which the State has an "absolute duty"
17 to provided an "equal opportunity to an adequate education"; and the Arkansas
18 Supreme Court instructed the General Assembly to define and provided what is
19 necessary to provide an adequate and equitable education for the children of
20 Arkansas. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being
21 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
22 safety shall become effective on:

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

24 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, it
25 shall become effective on the expiration of the period of time during which
26 the Governor may veto the bill; or

27 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden,
28 it shall become effective on the date the last house overrides the veto.