

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

As Engrossed: S12/26/03 S1/8/04

Call Item 4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1007

5 By: Representative Pickett
6 By: *Senators Wilkins, Gullett*
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF HOURS OF
11 TRAINING THAT MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARDS ARE
12 REQUIRED TO TAKE FOLLOWING ELECTION; AND FOR
13 OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

16 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF HOURS
17 OF TRAINING THAT MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL
18 BOARDS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE FOLLOWING
19 ELECTION.

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
23

24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-13-629 is amended to read as follows:
25 6-13-629. Training and instruction - Reimbursement.

26 (a)(1)(A)(i) All Beginning July 1, 2004, all members of a school
27 district board of directors elected ~~at each annual school election~~ for an
28 initial or noncontinuous term shall ~~receive~~ obtain a minimum of *six (6)* hours
29 training and instruction ~~in the school laws of this state and in the laws~~
30 ~~governing the powers, duties, and responsibilities of school boards~~ on or
31 before March 1 of the calendar year following the election.

32 (ii) The training and instruction of board members
33 shall include topics relevant to school laws, school operations, and the
34 powers, duties, and responsibilities of the members of the board of
35 directors, including, but not limited to, legal requirements, role
36 differentiation, financial management, and improving student achievement.



1 (B) By December 31 of each calendar year thereafter, in
2 addition to the six (6) hours training requirement in subdivision (a)(1)(A)
3 of this section, new members of a school district board of directors shall
4 also comply with all other training requirements contained in this section
5 for a total of twelve (12) hours of training obtained between the time of
6 their election and the end of their first full calendar year of office and
7 six (6) hours each calendar year thereafter.

8 (C)(i) Beginning January 1, 2004, and every year
9 thereafter, all existing and re-elected board members shall obtain a minimum
10 of six (6) hours training and instruction by December 31 of each calendar
11 year.

12 (ii) The training and instruction of board members
13 shall include topics relevant to school laws, school operations, and the
14 powers, duties, and responsibilities of the members of the board of directors
15 including, but not limited to, legal requirements, role differentiation,
16 financial management, and improving student achievement.

17 (D) Hours of training and instruction obtained in excess
18 of the minimum requirements may cumulate and be carried over from year to
19 year.

20 (2) This instruction may be received from an institution of
21 higher learning in this state, from instruction sponsored by the Department
22 of Education, or by an in-service training program conducted by the Arkansas
23 School Boards Association.

24 (3) (A) Any school board member completing a course of
25 instruction shall receive a certification of completion.

26 (B) A copy of the certification shall be entered into the
27 minutes of the local school board on which he or she serves and forwarded by
28 the local school board to the department within five (5) days of receipt by
29 the board.

30 ~~(4) Upon having completed the course of instruction meeting the~~
31 ~~minimum requirements of this section, it shall not be necessary for a school~~
32 ~~board member to take an additional course of instruction upon being reelected~~
33 ~~to the school board.~~

34 (4)(A)(i) If any member of a school district board of directors
35 elected for an initial or noncontinuous term fails to obtain the required
36 training under subdivision (a)(1)(A)(i) of this section by March 1 and fails

1 to correct the deficiency within ninety (90) days from the date of receiving
2 notice of the deficiency, a vacancy shall exist on the board of directors by
3 operation of law from the date of receipt of notification by the
4 superintendent of the school district.

5 (ii) On or before March 10 of each year, the
6 department shall notify by certified mail, return receipt requested any
7 school board member that is deficient on any training requirement under
8 subdivision (a)(1)(A)(i) of this section.

9 (iii) No vacancy shall exist if granted an extension
10 due to military service of the member or illness as provided under
11 subdivision (a)(5) of this section.

12 (B) The department shall immediately notify the
13 superintendent of the school district by certified mail, return receipt
14 requested, with a copy to the board president, of the existence of a vacancy
15 on the board of directors and the resulting vacancy may be filled by
16 appointment by a majority of the remaining members of the board of directors,
17 as is provided by law.

18 (5) Should any member of a school district board of directors
19 fail to obtain the required training under subdivisions (a)(1)(B) or
20 (a)(1)(C) of this section, the member shall receive a citation from the
21 department noting the deficiency with a copy mailed to the superintendent and
22 the local school board.

23 (6)(A) If a member of a school district board of directors is
24 unable to obtain the required training because of military service of the
25 member or illness of the member verified by a written sworn statement from
26 the member's attending physician, the department shall grant a time extension
27 permitting the member additional time to obtain required training.

28 (B) The issuance of a time extension shall not operate to
29 remove a member of a school district board of directors from office.

30 (b) Local school district boards of directors are authorized to pay
31 per diem and other necessary expenses from funds belonging to the school
32 district and to reimburse school board directors for expenses incurred in
33 attending in-service workshops, conferences, and other courses of training
34 and instruction required in completing a ~~minimum of six (6) hours~~ the
35 training and ~~of~~ instruction as required in subsection (a) of this section.

36 (c) It shall be the responsibility of the department to receive and

1 maintain records of instructional hours obtained by members of school
2 district boards of directors.

3 (d) The State Board of Education may promulgate rules and regulations
4 consistent with the provisions and intent of this section.

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/s/ Pickett