

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

Call Item 4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1013

5 By: Representative Elliott
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE METHODS FOR
10 REORGANIZING SCHOOL DISTRICTS; TO PROVIDE FOR
11 CITIZEN PARTICIPATION; TO SUSTAIN STATE-ASSISTED
12 DESEGREGATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
13

Subtitle

15 AN ACT TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE METHODS
16 FOR REORGANIZING SCHOOL DISTRICTS; TO
17 PROVIDE FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION; AND
18 TO SUSTAIN STATE-ASSISTED DESEGREGATION.
19
20

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

23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 13, Subchapter 14 is amended
24 to add an additional section to read as follows:

25 6-13-1411. Methods of annexation and consolidation.

26 (a) If the State Board of Education is required to consider the
27 annexation or consolidation of an affected school district or districts under
28 § 6-13-1403 or § 6-13-1404, the state board shall consider the following
29 methods of reorganization to create a new district or districts:

30 (1) Under § 6-13-106, where no high school is maintained;

31 (2) Under § 6-13-1501, by detaching territory from an existing
32 district;

33 (3) Where two (2) or more contiguous school districts jointly
34 operate one (1) or more cooperative high schools; and

35 (4) By dissolving two (2) or more contiguous school districts,
36 or one (1) or more unit school districts and one (1) or more high school



1 districts, all of which are contiguous, to form a single new high school
 2 district and new elementary school districts which are based upon the
 3 boundaries of the dissolved school districts.

4 (b)(1) At least ninety (90) days before any reorganization order is
 5 issued under subsection (a) of this section, the state board shall conduct a
 6 hearing to receive comments on the proposed reorganization from citizens in
 7 the affected area.

8 (2) Notice of the hearing shall be given by publication for one
 9 (1) day each week for two (2) successive weeks in a newspaper having general
 10 circulation in the affected area.

11 (c)(1) Two (2) or more school district boards of directors may
 12 consider reorganization employing the methods provided under subsection (a)
 13 of this section.

14 (2)(A) At least ninety (90) days before any reorganization order
 15 is issued under subsection (a) of this section, each of the boards of
 16 directors shall conduct a hearing to receive comments on the proposed
 17 reorganization from citizens in the affected area.

18 (B) Notice of the hearing shall be given by publication
 19 for one (1) day each week for two (2) successive weeks in media outlets
 20 having general circulation in the affected area.

21 (3)(A) If each of the boards of directors finds that the
 22 citizens within that board's district support the proposed method of
 23 reorganization, each board of directors shall follow the procedures for
 24 petition and election provided under §§ 6-13-1503 and 6-13-1504.

25 (B) If all the requirements of subdivision (c)(3)(A) of
 26 this section are met and a majority of the votes are cast for the proposed
 27 reorganization, the state board shall order the creation of the new school
 28 district following the appropriate procedures provided under § 6-13-1505.

29 (d) Any proposed reorganization under this section shall follow the
 30 requirements of § 6-13-1408 to avoid any negative impact on state-assisted
 31 desegregation.

32
 33 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-14-122(a), concerning elections to
 34 consider consolidation, annexation, or merger of school districts, is amended
 35 to read as follows:

36 (a) The consideration of the question of the consolidation or

1 annexation of two (2) or more school districts, or parts thereof, in their
2 entireties, kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12), or other methods of
3 reorganization as provided under § 6-13-1411, may be made at the annual
4 school election with the issue of combining the districts and the levying of
5 a specified tax millage to support the new district placed on the ballot as a
6 single issue in order to assure that when the two (2) or more districts, or
7 parts thereof, are combined into one (1) district, a single millage will be
8 levied for support of the new district.

9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36