

State of Arkansas

Call Item 4

84th General Assembly

A Bill

Second Extraordinary Session, 2003

HOUSE BILL 1018

By: Representatives Boyd, Cleveland, Milligan

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF
ISOLATED SCHOOL DISTRICTS; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTINUED
SUPPORT OF ISOLATED SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 20, Subchapter 6 is amended
to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-20-602. Designated isolated districts.

The following school districts are designated as isolated districts
under § 6-20-601 and shall not be subject to consolidation, annexation, or
reorganization solely because of the school district's average daily
membership:

(1) Alread School District;;

(2) Arkansas City School District;

(3) Biggers-Reyno School District;

(4) Bright Star School District;

(5) Bruno-Pyatt School District;

(6) Carthage School District;

(7) Cord-Charlotte School District;

(8) Deer School District;

(9) Delaplaine School District;

(10) Elaine School District;

(11) Fourche Valley School District;



- (12) Gillett School District;
- (13) Kingston School District;
- (14) Mount Judea School District;
- (15) Mount Pleasant School District;
- (16) Oark School District;
- (17) Oden School District;
- (18) Paron School District;
- (19) Randolph County School District;
- (20) Scotland School District;
- (21) Sparkman School District;
- (22) St. Joe School District;
- (23) St. Paul School District;
- (24) Umpire School District;
- (25) Williford School District; and
- (26) Winslow County School District.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-20-601(a), concerning funding for isolated school districts, is amended to read as follows:

(a) As used in this section, "isolated school district" means a school district that is listed under § 6-20-602 or that meets any four (4) of the following five (5) criteria:

(1) There is a distance of twelve (12) miles or more by hard-surfaced highway from the high school of the district to the nearest adjacent high school in an adjoining district;

(2) The density ratio of transported students is less than ~~three~~ four (4) students per square mile of area;

(3) The total area of the district is ~~ninety-five square miles (95 sq. mi.)~~ eighty square miles (80 sq. mi.) or greater;

(4) Less than fifty percent (50%) of bus route miles is on hard-surfaced roads; and

(5) There are geographic barriers such as lakes, rivers, and mountain ranges which would impede travel to schools that otherwise would be appropriate for consolidation, cooperative programs, and shared services.

SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Arkansas Supreme Court in

1 Lake View School District No. 25 v. Huckabee, 351 Ark. 31 (2002) declared the
2 current system of education to be unconstitutional because it is both
3 inequitable and inadequate; and the Arkansas Supreme Court set forth the test
4 for a constitutional system to be one in which the State has an “absolute
5 duty” to provide an “equal opportunity to an adequate education”; and the
6 Arkansas Supreme Court instructed the General Assembly to define and provide
7 what is necessary to provide an adequate and equitable education for the
8 children of Arkansas; that in the process of restructuring school districts
9 certain areas of the state need to be afforded protection from consolidation
10 prior to any restructuring. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and
11 this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public
12 peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

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

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

17 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
18 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.