

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

Call Item 4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1036

5 By: Representatives House, Bolin, Seawel, Walters, P. Bookout, Fite, Judy, Lendall, L. Prater
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ASSIST PUBLIC SCHOOLS THROUGH THE
10 ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANTS FOR DISTANCE LEARNING;
11 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

13 AN ACT TO ASSIST PUBLIC SCHOOLS THROUGH
14 THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANTS FOR DISTANCE
15 LEARNING.
16
17
18

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
20

21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 47, is amended to add an
22 additional subchapter to read as follows:

23 6-47-501. Purpose.

24 (a) It is the purpose of this subchapter to make available distance
25 learning in every school district in the state.

26 (b) The primary purpose of providing distance learning technologies is
27 to assist school districts in receiving advanced high school courses,
28 advanced placement courses, enriched course content, or other academic
29 courses not otherwise available in the school district.

30
31 6-47-502. Distance learning grants.

32 (a)(1) The Department of Education shall develop grant standards and
33 provide grants to education cooperatives for acquiring equipment and
34 receiving telecommunications services necessary for each school district to
35 have distance learning availability.

36 (2) The grants shall be used to assist school districts that do



1 not have distance learning capabilities and to assist school districts in
 2 upgrading existing distance learning capabilities.

3 (3) The grants shall also be used by the education cooperatives
 4 to provide technical assistance to the school districts in implementing and
 5 maintaining distance learning as an educational tool.

6 (b)(1) The department shall:

7 (A) Establish, by rule, standards for eligible equipment
 8 and telecommunications services; and

9 (B) Oversee the efficient operation and use of the system
 10 pursuant to law.

11 (2) Each school district shall have adequate connectivity to
 12 provide quality of service for distance learning.

13 (3) The distance learning technical protocol or protocols shall
 14 be in alignment with technical standards set by the office of the Executive
 15 Chief Information Officer.

16 (c) Education cooperatives and school districts shall coordinate with
 17 the department to seek to obtain the benefits of the Federal Communications
 18 Commission's E-rate discount program.

19
 20 6-47-503. Distance learning consortiums.

21 School districts shall form collaborative efforts with other schools or
 22 cooperatives or both other schools and cooperatives that share common
 23 educational needs in order to ensure that the state maximizes distance
 24 learning services by distributing shared course content.

25
 26 6-47-504. Effect on teachers.

27 A teacher that is under contract in a school district in the respective
 28 field of study that is being offered by distance learning pursuant to this
 29 subchapter shall not be terminated by the school district because of the
 30 availability of distance learning courses.

31
 32
 33
 34
 35
 36