

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H12/17/03* Call Item 4
2 84th General Assembly **A Bill**
3 Second Extraordinary Session, 2003 HOUSE BILL 1036
4

5 By: Representatives House, Bolin, Seawel, Walters, P. Bookout, Lendall, L. Prater, *Borhauer, L. Evans,*
6 *Fite, Jacobs, J. Johnson, Jones, Judy, Petrus, Roebuck, Schulte, Scroggin, Sullivan*
7 By: *Senators Baker, G. Jeffress, J. Jeffress*
8
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10 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

11 AN ACT TO ASSIST PUBLIC SCHOOLS THROUGH THE
12 ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANTS FOR DISTANCE LEARNING;
13 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
14

15 **Subtitle**

16 AN ACT TO ASSIST PUBLIC SCHOOLS THROUGH
17 THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANTS FOR DISTANCE
18 LEARNING.
19
20

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 47, is amended to add an
24 additional subchapter to read as follows:

25 6-47-501. Purpose.

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

28 (b) The primary purpose of providing distance learning technologies is
29 to assist school districts in receiving advanced high school courses,
30 advanced placement courses, enriched course content, or other academic
31 courses not otherwise available in the school district.
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33 6-47-502. Distance learning grants.

34 (a)(1) The Department of Education shall develop grant standards and
35 provide grants to education cooperatives for acquiring equipment and
36 receiving telecommunications services necessary for each school district to



1 have distance learning availability.

2 (2) The grants shall be used to assist school districts that do
3 not have distance learning capabilities and to assist school districts in
4 upgrading existing distance learning capabilities.

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

8 (b)(1) The department shall:

9 (A) Establish, by rule, standards for eligible equipment
10 and telecommunications services; and

11 (B) Oversee the efficient operation and use of the system
12 pursuant to law.

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

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

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

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22 6-47-503. Distance learning consortiums.

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

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28 6-47-504. Effect on teachers.

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

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34 */s/ House, et al*