

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

Call Item 4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1170

5 By: Representatives P. Bookout, Elliott, Chesterfield, J. Johnson, Green, C. Johnson  
6 By: Senators J. Bookout, G. Jeffress, Argue, J. Jeffress, Wilkins, Gullett  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO PROVIDE TEACHERS WITH QUALITY  
11 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT THAT WILL PROMOTE AND  
12 ENHANCE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS; AND  
13 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
14

## Subtitle

15 TO PROVIDE TEACHERS WITH QUALITY  
16 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT THAT WILL  
17 PROMOTE AND ENHANCE LEARNING  
18 OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS.  
19  
20  
21

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

24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 17, Subchapter 7, is amended  
25 to add a new section to read as follows:

26 6-17-704. Professional development plan.

27 (a) For purposes of this section, "professional development" means a  
28 coordinated set of planned learning activities for teachers, administrators,  
29 and classified employees that are standards-based and continuous.

30 (b) The purpose of professional development is to improve teaching and  
31 learning in order to facilitate individual, school-wide, and system-wide  
32 improvements designed to ensure that all students demonstrate proficiency on  
33 state academic standards.

34 (c)(1) Beginning with school year 2004-2005, each school district  
35 shall prepare a professional development plan.

36 (2)(A) Teachers, administrators, and classified school employees



1 shall be involved in the design, implementation, and evaluation of their  
 2 respective professional development offerings under the plan.

3 (B) The evaluation results shall be given to each group of  
 4 employees in the school district and used to improve professional development  
 5 offerings.

6 (d) The professional development offerings may include approved  
 7 conferences, workshops, institutes, individual learning, mentoring, peer-  
 8 coaching, study groups, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards  
 9 certification, distance learning, internships, and college or university  
 10 course work.

11 (e)(1) The professional development offerings may meet the objectives  
 12 of subdivision (e)(2) developed by the National Staff Development Council and  
 13 shall comply with the rules of the Department of Education governing  
 14 professional development.

15 (2) Professional development that improves the learning of all  
 16 students:

17 (A) Requires skillful school and school district leaders  
 18 who guide continuous instructional improvement;

19 (B) Organizes educators into learning communities whose  
 20 goals are aligned with those of the school and school district;

21 (C) Provides resources to support educator learning and  
 22 collaboration;

23 (D) Uses disaggregated student data to determine educator  
 24 learning priorities, monitor progress, and help sustain continuous  
 25 improvements;

26 (E) Uses multiple sources of information to guide educator  
 27 improvement and demonstrate its impact;

28 (F) Prepares educators to apply research to decision  
 29 making;

30 (G) Uses learning strategies appropriate to the intended  
 31 goal;

32 (H) Applies knowledge about human learning and change;

33 (I) Prepares educators to understand and appreciate all  
 34 students;

35 (J) Creates safe, orderly, and supportive learning  
 36 environments;

1                   (K) Holds high expectations for the students' academic  
2 achievement;

3                   (L) Deepens educators' content knowledge;

4                   (M) Provides educators with research-based instructional  
5 strategies to assist students in meeting rigorous academic standards;

6                   (N) Prepares educators to use various types of classroom  
7 assessments appropriately; and

8                   (O) Provides educators with knowledge and skills to  
9 appropriately involve families and other stakeholders in education.

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11           SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
12 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Arkansas Supreme Court in  
13 Lake View School District No. 25 v. Huckabee, 351 Ark. 31 (2002) declared the  
14 current system of education to be unconstitutional because it is both  
15 inequitable and inadequate; that the Arkansas Supreme Court determined that  
16 the state has an absolute duty to provide an equal opportunity to an adequate  
17 education; that requiring each school district to provide teachers with  
18 quality professional development will promote and enhance learning  
19 opportunities for students; and that this act should become effective  
20 immediately in order for school districts to implement professional  
21 development plans. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act  
22 being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health,  
23 and safety shall become effective on:

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

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

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