

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

Call Item 4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 48

5 By: Senator Wilkins
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO HAVE A FIVE-
10 YEAR TIME PERIOD TO IMPROVE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE;
11 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

13 AN ACT TO ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO HAVE
14 A FIVE-YEAR TIME PERIOD TO IMPROVE
15 SCHOOL PERFORMANCE.
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-429 is amended to read as follows:
22 6-15-429. Academic distress - Required action.

23 (a) A public school district identified as in "academic distress"
24 shall have no more than ~~two (2)~~ five (5) consecutive school years from the
25 date of receipt of notice of identification from the Department of Education
26 to be removed from academic distress status.

27 (b) The State Board of Education may at any time take enforcement
28 action on any school district in academic distress status, including, but not
29 limited to, annexation, consolidation, or reconstitution of a school district
30 pursuant to § 6-13-1401 et seq. and the authority of this subchapter, except
31 no public school district shall be allowed to remain in academic distress
32 status for a time period greater than ~~two (2)~~ five (5) consecutive school
33 years from the date of receipt of notice of identification of academic
34 distress from the department.

35 (c) If a public school district fails to be removed from academic
36 distress status within the allowed ~~two-year~~ five-year time period, the state



1 board shall annex, consolidate, or reconstitute the academic distress school
2 district prior to July 1 of the next school year unless the state board, at
3 its discretion, issues a written finding supported by a majority of the board
4 explaining in detail that the school district could not remove itself from
5 academic distress during the relevant time period due to impossibility caused
6 by external forces beyond the school district's control.

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