

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1289

4
5 By: Representatives Thompson, Jeffrey

For An Act To Be Entitled

6
7
8 AN ACT TO ALLOW A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO CLOSE AN
9 ISOLATED SCHOOL AREA FOLLOWING AN ANNEXATION OR
10 CONSOLIDATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12
13 AN ACT TO ALLOW A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO
14 CLOSE AN ISOLATED SCHOOL AREA FOLLOWING
15 AN ANNEXATION OR CONSOLIDATION.
16

17
18
19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

20
21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-13-1603(f) through (l), concerning
22 administrative reorganization, are amended to read as follows:

23 ~~(f) No school facility in a school district included in the~~
24 ~~consolidation list required by § 6-13-1602 shall be closed by the state board~~
25 ~~or a local school board until after completion of an assessment of public~~
26 ~~school facilities by the Joint Committee on Educational Facilities as~~
27 ~~required by Act 1181 of 2003, but in no event shall any be closed prior to~~
28 ~~June 1, 2005.~~

29 ~~(g)~~(f) No administratively consolidated or annexed school district
30 shall have more than one (1) superintendent.

31 ~~(h)~~(g) No school district administratively consolidated with a school
32 district designated by the state board as being in academic or fiscal
33 distress shall be subject to academic or fiscal distress sanctions for a
34 period of three (3) years from the effective date of consolidation unless:

35 (1) The school district fails to meet minimum teacher salary
36 requirements; or



1 (2) The school district fails to comply with the Standards for
 2 Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools issued by the department.

3 ~~(i)~~(h) Noncontiguous school districts may voluntarily consolidate if
 4 the facilities and physical plant of each school district:

5 (1) Are within the same county, and the state board approves the
 6 administrative consolidation; or

7 (2) Are not within the same county, and the state board approves
 8 the administrative consolidation or annexation and finds that:

9 (A) The consolidation or annexation will result in the
 10 overall improvement in the educational benefit to students in all of the
 11 school districts involved; or

12 (B) The consolidation or annexation will provide a
 13 significant advantage in transportation costs or service to all of the school
 14 districts involved.

15 ~~(j)~~(i) Contiguous districts may administratively consolidate even if
 16 they are not in the same county.

17 ~~(k)~~(j) The state board shall promulgate rules to facilitate the
 18 administration of this subchapter.

19 ~~(l)~~(k) The provisions of § 6-13-1406 shall govern the board of
 20 directors of each resulting or receiving school district created under this
 21 subchapter.

22
 23 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-20-602 is amended to read as follows:
 24 6-20-602. Isolated schools.

25 (a) "Isolated school" means a school within a school district that:

26 (1) Prior to administrative consolidation or annexation under
 27 this section, § 6-13-1601 et seq., and § 6-13-1405(a)(5) qualified as an
 28 isolated school district under § 6-20-601; and

29 (2) Is subject to administrative consolidation or annexation
 30 under this section, § 6-13-1601 et seq., and § 6-13-1405(a)(5).

31 (b) Any isolated school within a resulting or receiving district ~~shall~~
 32 may remain open.

33 (c) Funding for isolated school districts shall be expended by the
 34 resulting or receiving district only on the operation, maintenance, and other
 35 expenses of the isolated schools within the resulting or receiving district.

36

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-20-603(c), concerning continued support of isolated school districts, is amended to read as follows:

(c) No school district may receive isolated funding under this section for an isolated school area if ~~the~~:

(1) The prior year three (3) quarter average daily membership of the isolated school area exceeds three hundred fifty (350); or

(2) The isolated school area's academic facilities that were in existence before the administrative consolidation or annexation under the Public Education Reorganization Act, § 6-13-1601 et seq. are:

(A) Closed; or

(B) No longer used by the receiving or resulting district as academic facilities serving substantially the same grade levels and geographic areas that were served in the facilities immediately before the administrative consolidation or annexation under the Public Education Reorganization Act, § 6-13-1601 et seq.