

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  
4

*As Engrossed: H2/3/05*  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1289

5 By: Representatives Thompson, Jeffrey  
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8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO ALLOW A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO CLOSE AN  
10 ISOLATED SCHOOL AREA FOLLOWING AN ANNEXATION OR  
11 CONSOLIDATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12

13 **Subtitle**

14 AN ACT TO ALLOW A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO  
15 CLOSE AN ISOLATED SCHOOL AREA FOLLOWING  
16 AN ANNEXATION OR CONSOLIDATION.  
17  
18

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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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 /s/ Thompson, et al