

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

As Engrossed: S3/14/17

A Bill

SENATE BILL 509

5 By: Senator Elliott
6 By: Representative Sabin
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOLS IN SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT; TO
10 REQUIRE A STUDY OF THE EFFECTS OF A POTENTIAL
11 TAKEOVER OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR DISTRICT AND OF THE
12 CLOSING OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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15 CONCERNING SCHOOLS IN SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT;
16 AND TO REQUIRE A STUDY OF THE EFFECTS OF
17 A POTENTIAL TAKEOVER OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL
18 OR DISTRICT AND OF THE CLOSING OF A
19 PUBLIC SCHOOL.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 13, Subchapter 1, is amended
26 to add an additional section to read as follows:

27 6-13-114. Community impact statement before closing a school.

28 (a) A public school district, in consultation with other appropriate
29 public agencies, shall conduct the following before closing a school within
30 the public school district:

31 (1) A community impact statement that studies and measures the
32 potential impact on the public school district and the community at large
33 that would result from closing the public school; and

34 (2) An assessment of educational, social, and economic
35 conditions and other circumstances that exist outside of the classroom that
36 affect the academic performance and achievement level of students in the



1 public school and the number of students affected.

2 (b) The community impact statement and assessment of educational,
3 social, and economic indicators and other circumstances under subsection (a)
4 of this section shall be made available to the public on the public school
5 district's website.

6 (c) The superintendent of the public school district shall present the
7 findings of the community impact statement in a public meeting held in the
8 public school district.

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10 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 13, Subchapter 14, is
11 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

12 6-13-1418. Community impact statement before closing a school.

13 (a) The Department of Education, in consultation with other
14 appropriate public agencies, shall conduct the following before closing a
15 public school as the result of a consolidation or annexation under this
16 subchapter:

17 (1) A community impact statement that studies and measures the
18 potential impact on the resulting district and the community at large that
19 would result from closing the public school; and

20 (2) An assessment of educational, social, and economic
21 conditions and other circumstances that exist outside of the classroom that
22 affect the academic performance and achievement level of students in the
23 public school and the number of students affected.

24 (b) The community impact statement and assessment of educational,
25 social, and economic indicators and other circumstances under subsection (a)
26 of this section shall be:

27 (1) Sent to the resulting district; and

28 (2) Made available to the public on the department's website.

29 (c) The Commissioner of Education and the superintendent of the
30 resulting district shall present the findings of the community impact
31 statement in a jointly held public meeting in the resulting district.

32 (d) This section does not apply to a voluntary consolidation or
33 annexation under § 6-13-1416.

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35 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 1, is amended
36 to add an additional section to read as follows:

1 6-15-104. Community impact statement for a school in school
2 improvement.

3 (a) If a public school or public school district is classified as
4 being in school improvement or a status in concordance with school
5 improvement, the Department of Education, in consultation with other
6 appropriate public agencies, shall conduct:

7 (A) A community impact statement that studies and measures
8 the potential impact on the public school or public school district and the
9 community at large that would result from the State Board of Education
10 assuming authority over the public school or public school district; and

11 (B) An assessment of educational, social, and economic
12 conditions and other circumstances that exist outside of the classroom that
13 affect the academic performance and achievement level of students in the
14 public school or public school district and the number of students affected.

15 (2) The community impact statement and assessment of
16 educational, social, and economic indicators and other circumstances under
17 subsection (a) of this section shall be:

18 (A) Sent to the public school or public school district
19 classified as being in support status; and

20 (B) Made available to the public on the department's
21 website.

22 (3) The Commissioner of Education and the superintendent of the
23 public school district shall present the findings of the community impact
24 statement in a jointly held public meeting in the public school district.

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26 /s/Elliott
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