

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 314

5 By: Senators Elliott, L. Chesterfield, C. Tucker  
6 By: Representatives A. Collins, Love, McCullough, Ennett, Springer, Hudson  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT UNDER THE  
10 AUTHORITY OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; TO  
11 ESTABLISH THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH A PUBLIC SCHOOL  
12 DISTRICT SHALL BE RETURNED TO LOCAL CONTROL; TO  
13 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

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17 TO ESTABLISH THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH A  
18 PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL BE RETURNED  
19 TO LOCAL CONTROL; AND TO DECLARE AN  
20 EMERGENCY.  
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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 § 6-15-2917, concerning public school  
26 districts under the authority of the State Board of Education, is amended to  
27 add an additional subsection to read as follows:

28 (d)(1) A public school district shall be returned to full local  
29 control if the public school district has:

30 (A) Been under the authority of the state board under this  
31 section for five (5) years; and

32 (B) Democratically elected a public school district board  
33 of directors during a special school election or an annual school election.

34 (2) However, nothing in this section precludes the state board  
35 from returning a public school district to full local control in fewer than  
36 five (5) years.



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SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that there may be confusion over which entity controls a public school district; and that this act is necessary in order to clarify the conditions under which a public school district may reassume autonomy after being under the authority of the State Board of Education. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective within sixty (60) days of the passage of this act and not later than June 30, 2021.