

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015

A Bill

SENATE BILL 789

4
5 By: Senator J. Hendren

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE OPEN-ENROLLMENT PUBLIC
9 CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITIES FUNDING AID PROGRAM; AND
10 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

14 TO ESTABLISH THE OPEN-ENROLLMENT PUBLIC
15 CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITIES FUNDING AID
16 PROGRAM.

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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 Title 6, Chapter 23, Subchapter 9, is amended
22 to add an additional section to read as follows:

23 6-23-908. Open-enrollment Public Charter School Facilities Funding Aid
24 Program.

25 (a) There is created the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School
26 Facilities Funding Aid Program.

27 (b)(1) An open-enrollment public charter school that meets the
28 criteria under subsection (c) of this section is eligible to receive funding
29 from the program on a pro rata distribution of available funding per student,
30 based upon the open-enrollment public charter school's previous year three-
31 quarter average daily membership.

32 (2) For an open-enrollment public charter school in its first
33 year of operation or for an open-enrollment public charter school that adds a
34 new grade, the funding from the program shall be determined using the method
35 under § 6-23-501(a)(2)(A).

36 (c) In addition to the open-enrollment public charter school's



1 successful completion of the charter application review and approval process,
2 the open-enrollment public charter school shall meet all of the following
3 criteria in order to receive funding under the program:

4 (1) Virtual technology is not the primary method of delivering
5 instruction;

6 (2) The facility meets all applicable health, fire, and safety
7 codes and all accessibility requirements under the Americans with
8 Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq., and the Individuals with
9 Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq., as reviewed by the
10 Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation or another
11 appropriate state agency; and

12 (3) The open-enrollment public charter school is not:

13 (A) Classified as in academic distress under § 6-15-428 or
14 fiscal distress under § 6-20-1901 et seq., and the corresponding rules
15 adopted by the State Board of Education;

16 (B) Classified as a priority school under the Arkansas
17 Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program, § 6-15-401 et
18 seq., nor received a rating of "F" under § 6-15-2105; or

19 (C) Placed in probationary status by the state charter
20 school authorizer under § 6-23-105.

21 (d) The funds received by an open-enrollment public charter school
22 under this section shall be used only for the lease, purchase, renovation,
23 repair, construction, installation, restoration, alteration, modification, or
24 operation and maintenance of an approved facility that meets the requirements
25 of subsection (c) of this section.

26 (e)(1) If an open-enrollment public charter school fails to use funds
27 received under this section as provided under subsection (d) of this section
28 or no longer has the need for the funds, the division shall certify and
29 recoup the funds from the operating funds designated to the open-enrollment
30 public charter school through the Department of Education and remitted
31 directly by the department.

32 (2) The operating funds from which the division may recoup funds
33 from an open-enrollment public charter school are limited to:

34 (A) State funding distributed under § 6-20-2305, including
35 without limitation state foundation funding and state categorical funding;

36 (B) Federal funding to the extent allowed under federal

1 law; and

2 (C) The net assets of an open-enrollment public charter
3 school deemed property of the state upon revocation or nonrenewal of the
4 charter after all legal debts owed to third parties are satisfied.

5 (3) The state shall hold a preferred security interest in the
6 funds received under this section as provided under subsection (d) of this
7 section or the amount of funds no longer needed.

8 (f) This section does not entitle or subject an open-enrollment public
9 charter school to the Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities Funding Act,
10 § 6-20-2501 et seq., or the Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities
11 Program Act, § 6-21-801 et seq.

12 (g) The Commission for Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities and
13 Transportation may promulgate rules to implement this section.

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