

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Third Extraordinary Session, 2016
4

A Bill

Call Item 13
SENATE BILL 14

5 By: Senator J. English
6 By: Representative Cozart
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL AND SCHOOL
10 DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM; TO PROVIDE A PAUSE IN
11 CURRENT STATE ACCOUNTABILITY CLASSIFICATIONS; TO
12 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 CONCERNING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL AND SCHOOL
16 DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM; TO
17 PROVIDE A PAUSE IN CURRENT STATE
18 ACCOUNTABILITY CLASSIFICATIONS; AND TO
19 DECLARE AN 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. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE CODIFIED.

26 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

27 (1) On December 10, 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act, Pub.
28 L. No. 114-95, was signed into law;

29 (2) The Every Student Succeeds Act, Pub. L. No. 114-95, allows a
30 state to design its own accountability system to meet the needs of its
31 students, the outcome of which will be a unified state and federal
32 accountability system rather than accountability systems under state and
33 federal law that use different measurements and have different consequences;

34 (3) During the 2016-2017 school year, the Department of
35 Education will work with the United States Department of Education, local
36 school districts, and stakeholders to create the new accountability system



1 for schools and school districts within Arkansas; and

2 (4) In order to facilitate the transition to a new
3 accountability system, a pause in current state accountability
4 identifications and classifications is necessary.

5 (b) For the 2016-2017 school year, the Department of Education shall
6 not:

7 (1)(A) Identify additional schools or school districts as being
8 in academic distress under § 6-15-428.

9 (B) The Department of Education may remove schools or
10 school districts from academic distress status if the school or school
11 district corrects all issues that caused the classification of academic
12 distress; and

13 (2) Assign school ratings under § 6-15-2105.

14 (c) This section shall expire on June 30, 2017.

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16 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
17 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that federal law requires a change
18 in state accountability systems for public schools and school districts; that
19 the Department of Education must use the 2016-2017 school year to develop a
20 new accountability system in order to comply with federal law; and that this
21 act is immediately necessary to facilitate the transition to a new
22 accountability system. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and
23 this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public
24 peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

25 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

26 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
27 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
28 bill; or

29 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
30 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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33 **APPROVED: 05/23/2016**