

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2023-083

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3 REQUESTING THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REFER TO THE HOUSE
4 COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION A STUDY TO EXAMINE EDUCATION SERVICE
5 COOPERATIVES IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.
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7 WHEREAS, there currently exist fifteen (15) education service
8 cooperatives in the State of Arkansas; and
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10 WHEREAS, education service cooperatives provide a number of services to
11 public school districts that are included in the education service
12 cooperatives' service areas, which are based on the needs of those public
13 school districts, and may include programs and services such as staff
14 development, curriculum development, instructional materials, education for
15 children with disabilities, adult education programs, alternative educational
16 programs, and community-based education programs; and
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18 WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas is statutorily required to provide funds
19 to support the basic structure of education service cooperatives, including
20 salaries and fringe benefits, related costs, funds to support staff and
21 curriculum development activities, and funds to cover certain travel expenses
22 of personnel employed by education service cooperatives to serve the part-
23 time needs of public school districts; and
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25 WHEREAS, education service cooperatives are public agencies, and
26 therefore are eligible to receive and expend public and private funds; and
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28 WHEREAS, education service cooperatives are evaluated at least one (1)
29 time within each five-year period on a schedule established by the
30 Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, with such evaluations
31 including investigations of user satisfaction, service adequacy, the extent
32 of local financial support, staff qualifications, and performance and
33 administration effectiveness; and
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35 WHEREAS, the House Committee on Education should study education
36 service cooperatives to determine if there are changes necessary to address

1 the organizational structure, statutory requirements, and accountability
2 measures associated with education service cooperatives,

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4 NOW THEREFORE,

5 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NINETY-FOURTH
6 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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8 THAT the House Committee on Education should:

9 (a) Study the organizational structures and requirements that are
10 associated with education service cooperatives in the State of Arkansas,
11 including without limitation the staffing qualifications and requirements,
12 budgets, and programs offered by each education service cooperative;

13 (b) Examine the accountability factors used to measure the
14 effectiveness of each education service cooperative; and

15 (c) Analyze similar education structures that exist in other states in
16 order to compare the frameworks and obligations of those education structures
17 with education service cooperatives in Arkansas.

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19 Respectfully submitted,

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23 Representative Jon S. Eubanks
24 District 46

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35 Prepared by: TNL/TNL
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