

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2013-001

2
3 REQUESTING THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CONDUCT AN INTERIM
4 STUDY TO DETERMINE EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO ENSURE THAT ALL
5 ARKANSAS STUDENTS ARE READING AT GRADE LEVEL BY THE END OF THE
6 THIRD GRADE BY 2020.

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8 WHEREAS, reading proficiently by the end of third grade is one of the most important indicators
9 of school success and high school graduation; and

10 WHEREAS, third grade marks the turning point between learning to read and reading to learn;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, increased efforts are needed to achieve student reading proficiency by improving
13 school readiness, reducing chronic absence, stopping summer learning loss, and strengthening parent
14 and community engagement; and

15 WHEREAS, a review of Arkansas benchmark exam data reveals that many children still do not
16 read proficiently - thirty-nine percent (39%) of African American children, twenty-nine percent (29%) of
17 Hispanic children, and eighteen percent (18%) of Caucasian children; and

18 WHEREAS, Arkansas lags behind other states in reading proficiency by the end of the third
19 grade,

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21 NOW THEREFORE,
22 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE 89TH GENERAL
23 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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25 THAT the Arkansas Legislative Council conduct an interim study to determine effective strategies
26 to ensure that all Arkansas students are reading at grade level by the end of the third grade by 2020.

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28 Respectfully submitted,

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32 Senator David Johnson
33 District 32

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36 By: CLR/KFW