

.As Engrossed: 4/6/95

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **80th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1995**
4 **By: Representative Mullenix**

A Bill

ACT 1277 OF 1995
HOUSE BILL 2033

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS SCHOOL START DATE STUDY
9 COMMISSION; TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS
10 AND A LEGISLATIVE REPORT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

13 "TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS SCHOOL START
14 DATE STUDY COMMISSION; TO PROVIDE FOR
15 THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS."

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

19 SECTION 1. (a) There is hereby created the Arkansas School Start Date
20 Study Commission to be charged with reviewing the laws, past and present, of
21 Arkansas and the regulations of the Arkansas Department of Education regarding
22 the beginning date for public schools in Arkansas. The study shall research
23 the impact on the tourism industry and the amount of money lost to education
24 budgets because of the early start of the school year. The study shall also
25 research the amount of dollars it costs to operate the school daily and if a
26 longer school year actually improves student learning levels. It shall
27 further study the feasibility of making the beginning date for school uniform
28 throughout the state, without sacrificing efficiency or the high standards of
29 the Arkansas school systems, develop legislation accordingly.

30 (b) To facilitate the work of the commission, the study commission
31 shall be encouraged to hold public hearings and seek input from any and all
32 interested parties, particularly the tourism and vacation industries. The
33 Tourism Division of the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism *and the*
34 *Arkansas Department of Education* shall prepare any interim and the final
35 reports for the study commission.

36 (c) The Arkansas School Start Date Study Commission shall submit a

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1 final report and its recommendations for any proposed legislation to the Joint
2 Interim Committee on Education and the Joint Interim Committee on Agriculture
3 and Economic Development of the Arkansas General Assembly on or before
4 September 1, 1996. The study commission shall expire on January 1, 1997.

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6 SECTION 2. (a) The Arkansas School Start Date Study Commission shall
7 be composed of thirteen (13) members to be appointed in the manner and to
8 represent various interests as follows:

9 (1) Two (2) members of the Joint Interim Committee on Education
10 of the Arkansas General Assembly, one (1) to be a Senator and one (1) to be a
11 Representative, to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and
12 by the Speaker of the House, respectively;

13 (2) Two (2) members of the Joint Interim Committee on Agriculture
14 and Economic Development of the Arkansas General Assembly, one (1) to be a
15 Senator and one (1) to be a Representatives, to be appointed by the President
16 Pro Tempore of the Senate and by the Speaker of the House, respectively;

17 (3) One (1) member representing the Arkansas Association of
18 School Administrators to be appointed by the Executive Director of that
19 organization;

20 (4) One (1) member representing the Arkansas School Board
21 Association to be appointed by the Executive Director of that organization;

22 (5) One (1) member representing the Arkansas Rural Educators
23 Association to be appointed by the Executive Director of that organization;

24 (6) One (1) members representing the Arkansas Education
25 Association to be appointed by the Executive Director of that organization;

26 (7) One (1) member representing a state supported college or university
27 in Arkansas to be appointed by the Director of the Department of Higher
28 Education;

29 (8) One (1) member representing the Arkansas Hospitality
30 Association to be appointed by the Executive Director of that organization;

31 (9) One (1) member is to be the Director of the Department of
32 Parks and Tourism or his designee;

33 (10) One (1) member to be the Chairman of the State Parks,
34 Recreation, and Travel Commission or his designee from the Commission; and

35 (11) One (1) member to be the Director of the Department of

1 Education or his designee.

2 (b) The Speaker of the House shall select one (1) of the
3 Representatives as a co-chairman, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate
4 shall select one (1) of the Senators as a co-chairman.

5 (c) A member of the study commission shall continue to serve on the
6 commission, until he or she no longer wishes to serve or no longer qualifies
7 to represent or no longer is a member of the committee, body, or organization
8 which he or she was appointed to represent. Any vacancy on the study
9 commission shall be filled by the original appointing authority with another
10 qualifying member of the committee, body, or organization.

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12 SECTION 3. (a) Members of the study commission who are state employees
13 or university personnel shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed
14 for expenses and travel by their employing agencies or institutions in the
15 maximum amounts prescribed by the Department of Finance and Administration for
16 state employees or institution personnel.

17 (b) Legislative members of the study commission shall be entitled to
18 per diem and mileage at the same rate authorized by law for attendance at
19 meetings of joint interim committees of the General Assembly. Legislative
20 members of the study commission may receive payment for per diem and mileage
21 from appropriated funds for the joint interim committees which they represent,
22 for the joint interim committees on which they serve, or from appropriated
23 funds for travel and expenses for the house of the General Assembly in which
24 they serve.

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26 SECTION 4. All provisions of this act of general and permanent nature
27 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
28 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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30 SECTION 5 . If any provisions of this act or the application thereof to
31 any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect
32 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
33 the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this
34 act are declared to be severable.

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