

As Engrossed: 3/17/95

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **80th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1995**
4 **By: Representatives Argue, Fletcher, Bisbee and Simon**

A Bill

ACT 1307 OF 1995
HOUSE BILL 2075

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT REQUIRING THE GENERAL EDUCATION DIVISION OF THE
9 STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF
10 EXISTING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN
11 ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

14 "REQUIRING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF
15 EDUCATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF EXISTING
16 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES
17 IN ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS."

18
19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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21 SECTION 1. The General Assembly hereby finds and determines that a
22 greater emphasis on professional development for educators has been brought
23 about by the rapid pace of expanding knowledge in curricular areas, societal
24 changes, and the escalating use of technology by business and industry. More
25 requirements are being placed on teachers and administrators to lead their
26 districts and schools toward positive changes that will result in optimal
27 achievement by all students, and professional development is critical to all
28 of these issues.

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30 SECTION 2. (a) The General Education Division of the State Department
31 of Education shall conduct a comprehensive study of existing professional
32 development opportunities for employees and board members of the public school
33 districts in Arkansas.

34 (b) (1) A report of such comprehensive study shall be prepared and
35 presented to the Governor, the Joint Interim Committee on Education, and the
36 State Board of Education by September 1, 1997.

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1 (2) The report shall include, but not be limited to, the
2 following information:

3 (A) Specific categories of professional development
4 opportunities provided for employees and board members of public school
5 districts;

6 (B) Sources of time and funding used for professional
7 development;

8 (C) Systems of accountability used within school districts
9 that are relative to professional development;

10 (D) Human resources used in conducting or facilitating
11 professional development activities;

12 (E) Statistics demonstrating to what extent school
13 districts have put in place well-defined professional development plans to
14 support systematic development and implementation of school improvement.

15 (c) The Director of the General Education Division of the State
16 Department of Education shall convene a group of educational professionals
17 from throughout the state to conduct the comprehensive study, consisting of
18 representatives from the following groups:

19 (1) School administrators;

20 (2) Teachers;

21 (3) Members of local school boards;

22 (4) Administrators, faculty, and board members of institutions of
23 higher education;

24 (5) Directors and staff of education service cooperatives; and

25 (6) Various professional educators' organizations.

26 (d) The results of the comprehensive study shall be utilized in
27 defining the future role of the State Department of Education in facilitating
28 professional development in the public schools.

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30 SECTION 3. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
31 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
32 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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34 SECTION 4. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
35 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect

1 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
2 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
3 act are declared to be severable.

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5 SECTION 5. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
6 hereby repealed.

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/s/Rep. Argue, et al

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APPROVED: 4-14-95

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