

Stricken language would be deleted from present law. Underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 81st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1997

# A Bill

ACT 631 OF 1997  
HOUSE BILL 1509

4  
5 By: Representatives Wilkins, Pollan, Thicksten, Newman, McKissack, Roberts, Judy Smith, Brown, Willems, Ammons, Bush, Critcher,  
6 Ferrell, Hale, McGee, Miller, Northcutt, and Sheppard  
7 By: Senators Edwards, Russ, Mahony, Boozman, Bradford, Brown, and Jeffries

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## For An Act To Be Entitled

10 "AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DIRECTOR OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION  
11 DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE A  
12 CLEARINGHOUSE ON NONSECTARIAN PRACTICES IN CHARACTER AND  
13 CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO ASSIST LOCAL SCHOOL  
14 DISTRICTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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## Subtitle

17 "TO PROVIDE A CLEARINGHOUSE FOR  
18 INFORMATION ON NONSECTARIAN PRACTICES IN  
19 CHARACTER AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TO  
20 ASSIST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS."

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

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24 SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The General Assembly finds and  
25 acknowledges that, while character and citizenship is primarily a parental  
26 responsibility, it must not remain isolated there. The General Assembly  
27 further finds that character and citizenship education must be strengthened in  
28 public school to prepare young people for positive dealings with the social  
29 order of today.

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31 SECTION 2. (a) The Director of the General Education Division of the  
32 Department of Education shall provide a clearinghouse for information on  
33 nonsectarian practices in character and citizenship education programs within  
34 Arkansas and across the nation in order to assist local schools to strengthen  
35 character and citizenship education as a local option for school district  
36 curriculum in kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12).

1           (b) The director shall ensure that information on nonsectarian  
2 practices and models is disseminated to all school districts in the state by  
3 no later than August 1, 1998, and is updated after each regular session of the  
4 General Assembly.

5           (c) During each interim of the biennium, the director shall provide a  
6 progress report on the implementation and effectiveness of this act to the  
7 members of the House and Senate Interim Committees on Education.

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

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13           SECTION 4. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to  
14 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
15 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without  
16 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
17 act are declared to be severable.

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

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APPROVED:3-18-97

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