

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  
4

As Engrossed: H1/16/97 H2/6/97 S3/5/97

# A Bill

ACT 787 OF 1997  
HOUSE BILL 1111

5 *By: Representatives Madison, Jones, McGee, McJunkin, Willems, Northcutt, Whorton, Judy Smith, Wilkins, Brown, Wilkinson,*  
6 *Ammons, Ferrell, Pollan, Hall, Dietz, Hunton, Angel, Vess, Sheppard, Critcher, Wallis, Schexnayder, Bush, Pappas, McKissack,*  
7 *Laverty, Magnus, Allison, Trammell, Terry Smith, and Broadway*

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9 *By: Senators Fitch, Bradford, Harriman, Bearden, Webb, Smith, Hunter, Scott, Walters, and Todd*

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## For An Act To Be Entitled

14 "AN ACT TO REQUIRE EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL TO TEACH COURSES IN  
15 ARKANSAS HISTORY; TO PRESCRIBE CERTAIN EDUCATION  
16 REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION AS ELEMENTARY TEACHERS AND  
17 SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHERS; TO REQUIRE EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL TO  
18 ANNUALLY CERTIFY ITS COMPLIANCE WITH THIS ACT; TO DECLARE  
19 AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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## Subtitle

22 "REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO TEACH  
23 ARKANSAS HISTORY; AND FOR OTHER  
24 PURPOSES."

25

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

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28 SECTION 1. Beginning with the 1997-98 school year: (a) a unit of  
29 Arkansas history shall be taught as a social studies subject at each  
30 elementary grade level in every public elementary school in this state with  
31 greater emphasis at the fourth (4th) and fifth (5th) grade levels, and (b) at  
32 least one (1) full semester of Arkansas history shall be taught to all  
33 students at the seventh (7th), eighth (8th), ninth (9th), tenth (10th),  
34 eleventh (11th), or twelfth (12) grade level in every public secondary school  
35 in this state.

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1           SECTION 2. The Director of the General Education Division of the State  
2 Department of Education shall prepare and distribute no later than July 1,  
3 1997, to each public school in this state and to the House and Senate Interim  
4 Committees on Education the course content guidelines for courses in Arkansas  
5 history to be taught by the public schools of this state. Course guidelines  
6 shall ensure that the courses represent the most accurate and historically  
7 sound account of the pre-history, history and culture of Arkansas including  
8 the significant contributions and achievements of all segments of the  
9 population. Any revisions in the Arkansas history course content guidelines  
10 shall be reported to the public schools and the House and Senate Interim  
11 Committees on Education no later than July 1 of the year the course guidelines  
12 are to be implemented.

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14           SECTION 3. Beginning July 1, 2001, no person shall be certified as a  
15 social studies teacher or as an elementary school teacher unless such person  
16 has successfully completed at least three (3) hours of college course work in  
17 Arkansas history. However, Social Studies teachers and elementary school  
18 teachers entering Arkansas from another state shall receive a one-year  
19 nonrenewable provisional certificate to teach in Arkansas schools as  
20 authorized by § 6-17-403. The provisions of this section are not applicable  
21 to recertification of teachers certified prior to the effective date of this  
22 act.

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24           SECTION 4. Every public school district in this state shall provide  
25 substantive and meaningful in-service training in Arkansas history for its  
26 teachers. The district may contract with an Education Service Cooperative to  
27 provide the training.

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29           SECTION 5. (a) Each public school superintendent in this state shall  
30 certify to the State Department of Education no later than June 1, 1998 and  
31 annually thereafter whether the school is in compliance with this act.

32           (b) The Director of the General Education Division of the State  
33 Department of Education shall report no later than July 1st of each year to  
34 the House and Senate Interim Committees on Education the identity of the  
35 schools which have reported compliance with this act, the identity of the  
36 schools which have reported non-compliance, and the identity of the schools

1 which have failed to report.

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3 SECTION 6. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature  
4 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code  
5 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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7 SECTION 7. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to  
8 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
9 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without  
10 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
11 act are declared to be severable.

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13 SECTION 8. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
14 hereby repealed.

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16 SECTION 9. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the  
17 General Assembly that the Arkansas Code does not now require Arkansas history  
18 to be taught in the public schools in this state; that Arkansas history is not  
19 being taught in all public schools in this state; that such failure must be  
20 addressed as soon as possible; that this act establishes the mechanism to  
21 ensure that Arkansas history is taught in each public school in this state and  
22 that this act should go into effect immediately in order that it might be  
23 implemented in the 1997-98 school year. Therefore an emergency is declared to  
24 exist and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the  
25 public peace, health and safety shall become effective on the date of its  
26 approval by the Governor. If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the  
27 Governor, it shall become effective on the expiration of the period of time  
28 during which the Governor may veto the bill. If the bill is vetoed by the  
29 Governor and the veto is overridden, it shall become effective on the date the  
30 last house overrides the veto.

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*/s/Rep. Madison et al*

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APPROVED:3-24-97

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