

**Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed
prior to this session of the General Assembly.
Act 1447 of the Regular Session**

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2677

5 By: Representative Dangeau
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE
10 PROGRAM; TO CONTINUE PRIORITY FUNDING FOR CERTAIN
11 PROGRAMS IN CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS; AND FOR
12 OTHER PURPOSES.
13

Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS BETTER
15 CHANCE PROGRAM; AND TO CONTINUE PRIORITY
16 FUNDING FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS IN CERTAIN
17 SCHOOL DISTRICTS.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-45-106 is amended to read as follows:
24 6-45-106. Application process - Allocation of funding.

25 (a)(1)(A) Any early childhood program accredited and quality approved
26 by the Department of Human Services according to standards approved by the
27 Department of Education may apply for funding, regardless of the sponsorship
28 of the program. Local school districts may apply for funding to operate early
29 childhood programs, not including public school kindergarten, but an
30 appropriate early childhood program need not be affiliated with a school
31 district in order to receive funding.

32 (B) All applications submitted by sectarian or sectarian-
33 affiliated programs must first be reviewed to assure that any approval of
34 funding will not result in a violation of the United States Constitution,
35 Amendment One.



1 (2)(A) A local-to-state match will be required in the ratio of
2 forty to sixty (40:60), except that the Division of Child Care and Early
3 Childhood Education of the Department of Human Services may waive the
4 requirement of the local-to-state match if:

5 (i) The school is in a district that has been
6 designated by the Department of Education as being in academic distress; and

7 (ii) The division determines that the school is
8 unable to provide the local-to-state match requirement after the division has
9 assisted the school in identifying potential funding sources to provide
10 local-to-state match requirements.

11 (B) The local match may consist of cash or appropriate in-
12 kind services.

13 (b) In order to be considered, an application must contain all
14 information required by the Department of Education’s regulatory guidelines.

15 (c)(1) In allocating funding for the Arkansas Better Chance for School
16 Success Program, priority consideration shall be given to:

17 (A) Schools that have seventy-five percent (75%) or more
18 students scoring below proficiency on the primary benchmark exams, or other
19 exams designated by the Department of Education, in the preceding two (2)
20 school years; and

21 (B) Schools that have been designated by the Department of
22 Education as being in school improvement status under § 6-15-425 or are
23 located in a school district in academic distress.

24 (2) The goal of the state is to make available an Arkansas
25 Better Chance for School Success Program for an additional one-fifth (1/5) of
26 the qualifying students each year over a period of five (5) years, at which
27 time programs shall be available in all schools statewide.

28 (3) The priority considerations for funding under the Arkansas
29 Better Chance for School Success Program shall not affect the funding of the
30 Arkansas Better Chance Program and shall not create any priority for funding
31 the Arkansas Better Chance for School Success Program over the Arkansas
32 Better Chance Program.

33 (4) Any programs given priority consideration under subsection
34 (c) of this section shall continue to receive priority funding as necessary
35 to continue an established program even though the criteria under subdivision
36 (c)(1) of this section no longer exist for that school district.

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APPROVED: 3/31/2005