Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 328 of the Regular Session

A Bill

For An Act To Be Entitled
AN ACT TO PROVIDE AUTHORITY FOR ARKANSAS PUBLIC
SCHOOLS TO OFFER AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AS A CREDIT-
BEARING MODERN LANGUAGE OR FOREIGN LANGUAGE; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle
TO PROVIDE AUTHORITY FOR ARKANSAS PUBLIC
SCHOOLS TO OFFER AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE
AS A CREDIT-BEARING MODERN LANGUAGE OR
FOREIGN LANGUAGE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1, is amended
to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-16-142. American Sign Language as modern language or foreign
language.

(a) As used in this section, "American Sign Language" means the visual
natural language recognized globally that is linguistically complete with
unique rules for language structure and use, including without limitation
phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and discourse.

(b)(1) American Sign Language may be taught in the public schools of
the state as a modern language or foreign language.

(2) An American Sign Language course shall:

(A) Adhere to standards of rigor and proficiency
consistent with content standards and curriculum frameworks for foreign
language courses developed by the State Board of Education; and

(B) Receive academic credit equal to other foreign
language courses.

(c) The state board shall promulgate rules for the licensure and
curriculum requirements necessary to implement this section.

APPROVED: 03/11/2013