

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **79th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1993**

A Bill

ACT 197 OF 1993
HOUSE BILL 1042

4 **By: Representatives Roberts and Smith**

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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO INCREASE THE RACIAL AND ETHNIC SENSITIVITY OF
9 TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS IN ARKANSAS SCHOOLS BY
10 REQUIRING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP AND
11 IMPLEMENT A STATEWIDE PROGRAM IN RACIAL AND ETHNIC
12 AWARENESS FOR KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE TWELVE (K-12)
13 TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

14

Subtitle

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16 **"AN ACT TO INCREASE THE RACIAL AND ETHNIC**
17 **SENSITIVITY OF K-12 TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS**
18 **IN ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS."**

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

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22 **SECTION 1. PURPOSE.** The General Assembly hereby acknowledges that the
23 citizens of Arkansas come from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds and that the only
24 common meeting ground for many individuals is in the public schools. It is imperative that the
25 persons charged with administration of the public schools, with supervision of students in the
26 classroom, and with parent consultations should be sensitive to racial and ethnic differences
27 among students, parents, fellow teachers, and administrators. Therefore, the purpose of this
28 act is to serve as a mandate to the public schools of Arkansas to increase the racial and ethnic
29 sensitivity of all certified personnel.

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31 **SECTION 2. (a)** The State Board of Education is hereby authorized and directed to
32 develop, in cooperation with the Arkansas Black History Advisory Committee, an inclusive
33 statewide program to increase the racial and ethnic sensitivity of teachers and administrators
34 in the public schools of this state.

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(b) The program shall be implemented during the 1993-94 school year, *contingent*
36 *upon the availability of state staff development funds for this purpose*, and shall serve to assist

1 **teachers and administrators in developing a greater awareness of ethnic and racial differences,**
2 **improving interpersonal skills, and enhancing racial harmony.**

3 **(c) Participating schools and school districts shall permit their teachers and**
4 **administrators who have received training in the program to assist in training other teachers**
5 **and administrators.**

6 ***(d) Colleges and universities are hereby encouraged to work with neighboring local***
7 ***school districts regarding professional development of racial and ethnic awareness.***

8 **(e) Records shall be kept of the activities authorized by this act and the Department of**
9 **Education shall report to the Joint Interim Committee on Education, no later than October**
10 **15, 1994, the status and impact of this program on the public schools.**

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12 **SECTION 3. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are**
13 **amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision**
14 **Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.**

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

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

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/s/J. Roberts, et al

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APPROVED: 2/24/93

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