

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **80th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1995**

A Bill

ACT 1240 OF 1995
HOUSE BILL 2081

4 **By: Representative Hudson and Watts**

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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS DISTANCE LEARNING
9 DEMONSTRATION PROJECT; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR
10 OTHER PURPOSES."

11

12

Subtitle

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

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18 SECTION 1. Title. This act shall be known as and may be cited as the
19 "Arkansas Distance Learning Demonstration Project Act of 1995."

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21 SECTION 2. Purpose. The purpose of this act is to serve as a
22 legislative mandate for the establishment, organization, and administration of
23 a demonstration project designed to improve course offerings available to high
24 school students throughout the state. The project will demonstrate the
25 efficiency of using distance learning to enhance education and prepare
26 students for greater success in a postsecondary educational environment.

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28 SECTION 3. Definitions. As used in this act, unless the context
29 otherwise requires:

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(1) "OURNET" means the Ozark Unlimited Resources Educational
Cooperative Network.

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(2) "Board" means the State Board of Education.

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(3) "Distance learning" means an interactive telecommunications system
that utilizes information technology, audio, video, and similar technological
elements, is compatible with other distance learning networks, and is used for
the purpose of enhancing instructional opportunities in Arkansas public

1 schools.

2 (4) "Department" means the Arkansas Department of Education, General
3 Education Division.

4 (5) "Director" means the Director of the General Education Division of
5 the Arkansas Department of Education.

6 (6) "Infrastructure" means an interlinked system of wires, cables,
7 fiber optics, or other wireline or wireless communications media.

8 (7) "Project" means the Arkansas Distance Learning Demonstration
9 Project.

10 (8) "Public telecommunications" means the facilities used in providing
11 telecommunication services to the public including, but not limited to,
12 facilities owned and operated by public utilities.

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14 SECTION 4. (a) There is hereby established the Arkansas Distance
15 Learning Demonstration Project, *which shall be conducted by OURNET and*
16 *administered through* the Director of the General Education of the Arkansas
17 Department of Education.

18 (b)(1) The Director shall review the implementation of this project
19 annually and make recommendations to the Board regarding the number and amount
20 of awards to ensure that the purpose of the project is realized.

21 (2) The Board is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations
22 necessary for the implementation of this act.

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24 SECTION 5. The funding necessary to carry out the provisions of this
25 act may be derived from donations, grants, or legislative appropriation. The
26 Director may solicit and receive donations and grants for the purpose of
27 administering the project. All donations, grants, and appropriations received
28 shall be accounted for by the Department.

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

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34 SECTION 7. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
35 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect

1 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
2 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
3 act are declared to be severable.

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

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8 SECTION 9. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General
9 Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the effectiveness of this act on
10 July 1, . 1995, is essential to the successful establishment of a distance
11 learning demonstration project in Arkansas high schools during the 1995-96
12 school year and to the planning and efficiency of the state agencies and local
13 school districts involved in the project. Therefore, an emergency is hereby
14 declared to exist and this act being necessary for the immediate preservation
15 of the public peace, health, and safety, shall be in full force and effect
16 from and after July 1, 1995.

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/s/Rep. Hudson, et al

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APPROVED: 4-12-95

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As Engrossed: 3/23/95

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