

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

A Bill

ACT 597 OF 1995
HOUSE BILL 1691

4 **By: Representatives Baker and Pollan**

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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO AMEND ARK. CODE §§ 6-18-508 AND 6-18-509 TO
9 CLARIFY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR ALTERNATIVE LEARNING
10 ENVIRONMENTS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS; TO DECLARE AN
11 EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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Subtitle

14 "TO AMEND A.C.A. §§ 6-18-508 AND
15 6-18-509 TO CLARIFY REPORTING
16 REQUIREMENTS FOR ALTERNATIVE LEARNING
17 ENVIRONMENTS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS."

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

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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-18-508 is hereby amended to read
22 as follows:

23 "6-18-508. Alternative learning environment.

24 (a) Every school district shall establish an alternative learning
25 environment for students in an environment conducive to learning.

26 (b) Those school districts above two thousand (2,000) average daily
27 membership, by the year 1993-94; those above one thousand (1,000) average
28 daily membership, 1994-95; all other school districts, 1995-96.

29 (c) The alternative learning environment required by this section may
30 be established by more than one (1) school district or may be operated by a
31 public school educational cooperative established under § 6-13-901 et seq.

32 (d) The Department of Education shall establish criteria for teacher
33 preparation for alternative learning environments, which shall include
34 inservice training.

35 (e) *Each school district shall report to the Department of Education,*
36 *on a yearly basis, the race, gender, and other pertinent information regarding*

1 students placed in an alternative learning environment. This information
2 shall be reported by the department to the Joint Interim Oversight
3 Subcommittee on Educational Reform of the Joint Interim Committee on Education
4 of the General Assembly by June 30 of each year."

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6 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-18-509 is hereby amended to read
7 as follows:

8 "6-18-509. Assessment and intervention in alternative learning
9 environments.

10 (a) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires,
11 intervention services means activities within or outside a school that will
12 eliminate traditional barriers to learning.

13 (b) An Arkansas school district electing to operate an alternative
14 class or school should provide for:

15 (1) Student assessment either before or upon entry into the class
16 or school; and

17 (2) Intervention services designed to address the specific
18 educational needs of individual students.

19 (c) A student assigned to an alternative class or school for behavioral
20 reasons must receive intervention services designed to address the student's
21 behavioral problems. Such intervention services shall not be punitive in
22 nature but must be designed for long-term improvement of the student's ability
23 to control his or her behavior.

24 (d) Along with its annual report to the Department of Education, a
25 school district shall submit an assurance statement that it is in compliance
26 with the establishment of an alternative learning environment.

27 (e) *The Department of Education shall work with alternate classes and*
28 *schools in assisting them in complying with the provisions of this section.*

29 (f) A school district that does not comply with these provisions shall
30 be identified each year in the Department of Education's annual school
31 district report card."

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

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

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

SECTION . EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the immediate effectiveness of this act is essential to implementation of alternative learning environments throughout the state of Arkansas by the 1995-1996 school year and that any delay in the effective date of this act could work irreparable harm to the quality of education available to certain students in this state. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

/s/Rep. Baker, et al

APPROVED: 3-13-95

