Stricken language would be deleted from present law. Underlined language would be added to present law.

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State of Arkansas
                                    As Engrossed: S3/27/97 S3/31/97
81st General Assembly
    A Bill
                                    ACT 1133 OF 1997
                                    HOUSE BILL
                                    2163
By: Representatives Baker, Maddox, Simmons, Pappas, McGinnis, Bond, McKissack, Newman, Bisbee, Broadway, Terry Smith,
Northcutt, Simon, Thicksten, Fletcher, Wilkins, Davis, and Wilkinson
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

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        "AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT A HIGH COST TRANSPORTATION FUNDING
        FORMULA; TO REPEAL ARKANSAS CODE & 6-20-219; TO DECLARE AN
        EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."
            Subtitle
            "AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT A NEW HIGH COST
            TRANSPORTATION FORMULA."
BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
    SECTION 1. Title.
    This act shall be known and may be cited as "The High Cost
Transportation Funding Act of 1997."
    SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Annotated b
-6-20-219 State transportation aid funds-- operation of certain
school buses prohibited.
(a) The State Board of Education is authorized tofformulateruules and
regulations for the administration of State Transportation Aid funds for the
public schools of Arkansas.
(b) Such regulations shall provide for a minimum of seventy dollars
($70.00) and a maximum of not more than two hundred eighty dollars ($280) of
annual aid per average child transported under the pupil aid section of the
transportation aid formula which shall be paid to each school district
operating a transportation program, provided, that in the event the State
Transportation Aid funds during any fiscal year are inadequate to pay each
school district the full amount of transportation aid acoording to the
regulations of the State Board of Fducation, the board shall make a pereentage
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reduction in the aid payable to the school district.
    (c) Computation of annual aid per averagechild transported shall
include students in grades kindergarten through twelve (12).
(d) (1) Any school district which owns or operates any school bus
manufactured prior to April 1, 1977, shall cease operating such bus as a
regular route bus prior to the beginning of the 19g3-94 school year and shall
ever to operate such bus for any purpose prior to the beginning of the 1995-
96 school Year. For purposes of this section "regular route bus" means a bus
that is regularly scheduled to tramsport students to and from school.
    (2) The State Board of Educations shall withhold all
transportation aid due a district found in violation of this section until
such time as noncomplying school buses are replaced.
    (e)(1) Any state transportation aid funds distributed to a school
district under this section shall beused by the district only for those
purposes as enumerated by the State Board of Fducation as permitted uses of
state transportation aid.
    (2) Any balanee of state transportation aid funds on hand in any
school district at the end of any biennium shall be returned to the State
Department of Education for deposit in thesetate transportation aid formula
uless a waiver is granted for the purchase of a school bus by the department.
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    SECTION 3. Title 6, Chapter 20 of the Arkansas Code Annotated is
    amended by adding a Subchapter 17 to read as follows:
"6-20-1701. Title.
The title of the subchapter shall be "The High Cost Transportation
Funding Formula Act of 1997".
6-20-1702. Definitions
As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise requires:
(1) Activity bus means a bus which is used to transport students for
participation in activities sanctioned by the Arkansas Activities Association
or other extracurricular activities sanctioned by the school district.
(2) Approved Transportation Unit means a school bus meeting all state
and federal safety standards for school bus construction and certified by the
manufacturer as a school bus. The school bus must be assigned to a regular
school bus route for transporting students to and from the public schools

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during the regular school term. To qualify for state aid the bus must have a
capacity of at least eleven (11) students. All approved transportation units
shall be in good repair, sanitary, and in safe operating condition as
indicated by regular maintenance and safety inspections.
    (3) Area means the number of square miles of land within the school
district boundary lines computed to the nearest whole section.
    (4) Assigned school means the school site where a student receives
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most of his/her academic instruction.
(5) Average Daily Membership (ADM) means the total number of days
attended plus the total number of days absent by students in grades
kindergarten through twelve (K-12) during the first three (3) quarters of each
school year, divided by the number of school days actually taught in the
district during that period of time rounded up to the nearest hundredth.
(6) Average Daily Transported (ADT) means the average number of
students transported daily in Kindergarten through Grade 12 (K-12). ADT is
based on the average of the first three quarters of the previous school year
rounded up to the nearest hundredth. Students eligible to be counted as the
average daily transported include resident students attending school within
the district and residing two route miles or more from their respective
assigned schools, legally transferred students under Arkansas Code Annotated 8
6-18-316, school choice students under Arkansas Code Annotated \& 6-18-206, and
tuition agreement students.
(7) Bus Seating Capacity means the rated seating capacity (indicating
the maximum number of persons to be accommodated) as designated by the
manufacturer.
(8) Density means the area in square miles of the school district
divided into the average daily transported in grades Kindergarten through 12
(K-12) rounded up to the nearest tenth.
(9) Disaster Aid means transportation aid payable to a school district
due to a natural or man-made disaster that causes a school district to re-
route one or more approved transportation units so that additional miles are
incurred above the previously established route for a minimum of twenty (20)
school days in which affected students are actually transported.
(10) Feeder Bus means a bus used to transport students from their home
35 to the bus line where they board an approved transportation unit. No
36 transportation aid shall be allowed for a feeder bus.

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    As Engrossed: S3/27/97 S3/31/97
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reside two route miles or more from their assigned schools. Districts may
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reside two route miles or more from their assigned schools. Districts may
count students who live in this area even if private transportation is
count students who live in this area even if private transportation is
provided for these students, as long as a school bus is operated by the
provided for these students, as long as a school bus is operated by the
district for the potential transportation of these students. The school
district for the potential transportation of these students. The school
district must determine whether a student lives outside or within the two mile
district must determine whether a student lives outside or within the two mile
distance for each assigned school using an established bus route.
distance for each assigned school using an established bus route.
(2) Average daily transported may include legally transferred
(2) Average daily transported may include legally transferred
students, School Choice students, and tuition agreement students. However, a
students, School Choice students, and tuition agreement students. However, a
legally transferred student, a School Choice student, or a tuition agreement
legally transferred student, a School Choice student, or a tuition agreement
student may only be counted for average daily transported if the district
student may only be counted for average daily transported if the district
actually transports this student. Under Arkansas Code Annotated 8 6-18-206,
actually transports this student. Under Arkansas Code Annotated 8 6-18-206,
if both the resident district and the receiving district provide
if both the resident district and the receiving district provide
transportation to a legally transferred student, a School Choice student, or a
transportation to a legally transferred student, a School Choice student, or a
tuition agreement student, both districts may count this student on their
tuition agreement student, both districts may count this student on their
average daily transported calculation.
average daily transported calculation.
(3) Average daily transported may not include students living
(3) Average daily transported may not include students living
within the two mile distance of the assigned schools using an established bus
within the two mile distance of the assigned schools using an established bus
routes, even if students are picked up at courtesy bus stops within the two
routes, even if students are picked up at courtesy bus stops within the two
mile distance.
mile distance.
(4) In order to verify average daily transported, all school
(4) In order to verify average daily transported, all school
districts must keep accurate records indicating:
districts must keep accurate records indicating:
(i) The number of students who live outside the two route
(i) The number of students who live outside the two route
mile distance from their assigned school.
(ii) The bus in which students identified in subsection
(a) (4)(I) are transported.
(iii) The distance which students identified in subsection
(a)(4)(I) live from the assigned school as measured by an established bus
route.
(iv) All legally transferred students who are transported.
(v) All School Choice students who are transported.
(vi) All tuition agreement students who are transported.
(b) Calculation of Student Aid.
Student Aid is determined my multiplying the districts average daily
transported times the rate per student pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated \&

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6-20-1715.
(c) Calculation of depreciation allowance.
(1) Total depreciation allowance is determined by summing the
following: for each category of bus seating capacity of approved
transportation units, multiply the number of approved transportation units
times the allowable depreciation.
(2) To determine the number of approved transportation units for
the current school year, use the number of approved transportation units
operated in the previous year. Approved transportation units that run a
double or triple run are counted as one unit.
(3) Activity buses, feeder buses, shuttle buses, and spare buses
shall not be included for aid purposes.
(4) Approved transportation units may qualify for a depreciation
allowance based on bus seating capacity as follows:
Bus Seating Capacity
Allowance per Unit
83
77 \$3,800
71 \$3,500
65 \$3,200
59 \$3,100
53 \$3,000
47 \$2,900
41 \$2,800
35 \$2,700
23 \$2,500
Special Units \$2,400
(d) District's base aid amount
The district's base aid is determined by adding the total student aid
and the total depreciation allowance,
6-20-1705. Modification of transportation aid
(a) Base aid shall be modified by applying two (2) factors to
the district's base aid:

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\section*{As Engrossed: S3/27/97 S3/31/97}
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    (1) Minimum Base Aid, and
    (2) Maximum Base Aid.
    (b) The sum of base aid, as adjusted by subsection (a), handicapped
    aid, and disaster aid shall be further modified by application of the high
cost transportation adjustment factor.
6-20-1706. Minimum Transportation Aid.
(a) The minimum amount of base aid for which a district may qualify is
determined by comparing the fleet seating capacity and maximum eligible
average daily transported.
(b) Maximum eligible average daily transported is the average daily
transported times one and two tenths (1.2).
(c) If the maximum eligible average daily transported is less than the
fleet seating capacity:
(1) Multiply the number of approved transportation units
(excluding special units) times the maximum eligible average daily
transported, including any adjustments for annexation and/or consolidation,
and divide by the fleet seating capacity.
(2) Multiply the result in subsection (c)(1) times nine thousand
two hundred dollars (\$9,200) and add the total base aid for special units.
(d) If the maximum eligible average daily transported is greater than
the fleet seating capacity:
(1) Multiply the number of approved transportation units
(excluding special units) times nine thousand two hundred dollars (\$9,200) and
add the base aid for special units.
6-20-1707. Maximum Base Aid.
(a) The maximum amount of base aid for which a district may qualify is
determined by comparing the fleet seating capacity and the maximum eligible
average daily transported.
(b) If the maximum eligible average daily transported is less than the
fleet seating capacity:
(1) Multiply the number of approved transportation units
(excluding special units) times the maximum eligible average daily
transported, including any adjustments for annexation and/or consolidation and
divide by the fleet seating capacity.

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(excluding special units) times fourteen thousand eight hundred dollars
(excluding special units) times fourteen thousand eight hundred dollars
(\$14,800) and add the base aid for special units.
(\$14,800) and add the base aid for special units.
6-20-1708. Application of minimum and maximum adjustment factors.
6-20-1708. Application of minimum and maximum adjustment factors.
(a) A school district may not qualify for less base aid than the
(a) A school district may not qualify for less base aid than the
minimum base aid, and it may not qualify for more than the maximum base aid.
minimum base aid, and it may not qualify for more than the maximum base aid.
(b) The adjusted base aid for which a district is qualified for shall
(b) The adjusted base aid for which a district is qualified for shall
be:
be:
(1) the school district's base aid if the base aid is less than
(1) the school district's base aid if the base aid is less than
the maximum base aid calculated under 6-20-1707 and greater than the minimum
the maximum base aid calculated under 6-20-1707 and greater than the minimum
base aid calculated in 6-20-1706; or
base aid calculated in 6-20-1706; or
(2) the minimum base aid calculated under 6-20-1706, if the
(2) the minimum base aid calculated under 6-20-1706, if the
school district's base aid amount is less than its minimum base aid; or
school district's base aid amount is less than its minimum base aid; or
(3) the maximum base aid calculated under 6-20-1707, if the
(3) the maximum base aid calculated under 6-20-1707, if the
school district's base aid amount is more than the maximum base aid.
school district's base aid amount is more than the maximum base aid.
6-20-1709. High Cost Transportation Adjustment Factor.
6-20-1709. High Cost Transportation Adjustment Factor.
(a) Total transportation aid shall be adjusted by application of the
(a) Total transportation aid shall be adjusted by application of the
high cost transportation factor as follows:
high cost transportation factor as follows:
(1) Multiply the high cost transportation factor, to be
(1) Multiply the high cost transportation factor, to be
determined annually by the State Department of Education, times the average
determined annually by the State Department of Education, times the average
daily membership of the district.
daily membership of the district.
(2) Subtract the result in subsection (a)(1) from the sum of
(2) Subtract the result in subsection (a)(1) from the sum of
adjusted base aid pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated í 6-20-1708, handicapped
adjusted base aid pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated í 6-20-1708, handicapped
aid and disaster aid on the Transportation Worksheet in Arkansas Code
aid and disaster aid on the Transportation Worksheet in Arkansas Code
Annotated % 6-20-1716.
Annotated % 6-20-1716.
(b) Workshop Aid shall be provided exclusive of the high cost
(b) Workshop Aid shall be provided exclusive of the high cost
transportation adjustment.
transportation adjustment.
6-20-1710. Workshop Aid.

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    6-20-1710. Workshop Aid.
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## As Engrossed: S3/27/97 S3/31/97

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    (a) In addition to the total amount of approved aid, a district shall
    be entitled to workshop aid.
    (b) Workshop aid shall be calculated as follows:
    (1) Seventy dollars ($70) will be paid to the school district for
    each qualified route driver, substitute driver and/or activity driver employed
    by the school district who attends the State Department of Education sponsored
    in-service workshop. To qualify for the seventy dollars ($70), attendees
    shall hold a valid Class "A", "B", "C", or "D" drivers license with a "P"
    (passenger) endorsement. Payment shall be made from an instructors' sign in
    sheet containing name and license number.
    (2) Three hundred fifty dollars ($350) will be paid to the school
    district for each school bus mechanic who attends the annual workshop for
    mechanics sponsored by the State Department of Education.
    (3) Resident districts or host districts that furnish instructors
    for the in-service program shall be reimbursed for all expenses incurred in
    the school bus driver training program. Instructors shall receive seven
    dollars ($7) per qualified attendee, mileage at the current state allowable
    rate and any related documented expenses associated with the in-service
    program for bus drivers. Instructors will be paid one hundred fifty dollars
    ($150) for conducting a beginning school bus drivers workshop for schools.
    All school bus safety instructors shall be employed full time by a
    public/state educational institution. Payment is made during the current year
    of instruction.
    (4) Documented expenses for five (5) Arkansas Association of
    Student Transportation Officers will be paid to the Southeastern States Pupil
    Transportation Conference in July of each year. An officer elected at the
    yearly meeting who cannot attend shall not be replaced with a substitute and
    the attendance option shall be forfeited that year.
    (5) Documented expenses for six (6) delegates to the National
    Minimum School Bus Standards Conference will be paid. This conference,
    conducted every five (5) years, established the standards for operational and
    mechanical specifications for school buses nationwide. All delegates shall be
    employed full time by a public school system and active in the school
    transportation program. All delegates shall be approved by the Director of
    the State Department of Education.
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    6-20-1711. Handicapped Aid.
    (a) In addition to the total amount of adjusted base aid, a district
shall be entitled to Handicapped Aid.
    (b) Handicapped aid is determined by multiplying three hundred dollars
($300) times the number of school buses used primarily for transporting
children with disabilities.
    (c) For each unit used primarily for transporting children with
disabilities, the district may receive an additional two hundred dollars
($200) for each school bus equipped with a wheel chair lift. For each student
requiring specialized transportation according to their Individualized
Education Plan (IEP), the district may receive an additional twenty-five
dollars ($25) for each eligible student.
    6-20-1712. Annexation/Consolidation Incentive
    (a) A transportation incentive factor will be allowed for school
districts annexing or consolidating. This incentive factor shall assume that
all students of annexed or consolidated school districts are eligible to be
transported until actual average daily transported can be determined. To
calculate this incentive factor, the average daily membership of the non-
transported students shall be added to the average daily transported before
completing the Transportation Worksheet in Arkansas Code Annotated % 6-20-
1716. Once actual average daily transported can be determined, an adjustment
may be made in average daily transported.
    (b) In the event a consolidation or annexation occurs during the school
year, an adjustment in the average daily transported may be made at the time
such event occurs.
    (c) On any additional approved transportation units used to transport
the new average daily transported, pursuant to subsection (a), depreciation
will be allowed in the same manner as on all other approved transportation
units.
    6-20-1713. Disaster Aid.
    (a) Districts may apply for disaster aid by completing an application
with written documentation of the natural or man-made disaster and returning
    it to the State Department of Education.
    (b) Disaster aid must be claimed during the school year in which the
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disaster occurred.
    (c) Disaster aid is payable during the school year the disaster occurs
or exists in, and such aid is payable for a maximum of the current school year
or until the temporary rerouting of the school bus ceases.
    (d)(1) The State Department of Education will calculate disaster aid by
taking eighty-five percent (85%) of the state average cost per mile times the
additional miles added to the bus route.
    (2) The state average cost per mile will be calculated using data
from the previous year. The state average cost will include all expenditures
from the previous year less any insurance settlement.
    6-20-1714. Miscellaneous Provision.
    (a) Transportation aid deductions shall be made for those schools
having less than the required number of school days as prescribed by the
Educational Standards. Deductions shall be made as follows: approved state
aid divided by the required number of days equals aid per day. Aid per day
times the number of days not in attendance equals deductions for a shortened
school year. No deductions will be made if a waiver is granted by the State
Department of Education on the number of days in attendance.
    (b) The State Department of Education may deny transportation aid on
children who are transported beyond a reasonable distance in cases where such
children can be satisfactorily accommodated to an approved school nearer their
residence. However, the State recognizes and supports that some districts may
choose to bus students greater distances to achieve further desegregation.
Superintendents are urged to survey conditions and propose agreements between
districts in keeping with sound administration and economy in the use of
public school funds.
    (c) The following penalties shall be assessed against districts:
        (1) No transportation aid shall be granted to any district if the
proper officials do not make such reports as are required for participation.
    (2) An indication of an inaccurate report may by the basis for an
    investigation by the State Department of Education.
    (3) Base aid shall be withheld on any approved transportation
    unit found operating in violation of the minimum standards as adopted by the
    State Board of Education.
    (d)(1) Any state transportation aid funds distributed to a school
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| 0.9 | \$251.04 | 3.9 | \$198.24 | 6.9 | \$145.44 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1.0 | \$249.28 | 4.0 | \$196.48 | 7.0 | \$143.68 |
| 1.1 | \$247.52 | 4.1 | \$194.72 | 7.1 | \$141.92 |
| 1.2 | \$245.76 | 4.2 | \$192.96 | 7.2 | \$140.16 |
| 1.3 | \$244.00 | 4.3 | \$191.20 | 7.3 | \$138.40 |
| 1.4 | \$242.24 | 4.4 | \$189.44 | 7.4 | \$136.64 |
| 1.5 | \$240.48 | 4.5 | \$187.68 | 7.5 | \$134.88 |
| 1.6 | \$238.72 | 4.6 | \$185.92 | 7.6 | \$133.12 |
| 1.7 | \$236.96 | 4.7 | \$184.16 | 7.7 | \$131.36 |
| 1.8 | \$235.20 | 4.8 | \$182.40 | 7.8 | \$129.60 |
| 1.9 | \$233.44 | 4.9 | \$180.64 | 7.9 | \$127.84 |
| 2.0 | \$231.68 | 5.0 | \$178.88 | 8.0 | \$126.08 |
| 2.1 | \$229.92 | 5.1 | \$177.12 | 8.1 | \$124.32 |
| 2.2 | \$228.16 | 5.2 | \$175.36 | 8.2 | \$122.56 |
| 2.3 | \$226.40 | 5.3 | \$173.60 | 8.3 | \$120.80 |


| 2.4 | \$224.64 | 5.4 | \$171.84 | 8.4 | \$119.04 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2.5 | \$222.88 | 5.5 | \$170.08 | 8.5 | \$117.28 |
| 2.6 | \$221.12 | 5.6 | \$168.32 | 8.6 | \$115.52 |
| 2.7 | \$219.36 | 5.7 | \$166.56 | 8.7 | \$113.76 |
| 2.8 | \$217.60 | 5.8 | \$164.80 | 8.8 | \$112.00 |
| 2.9 | \$215.84 | 5.9 | \$163.04 | 8.9 | \$110.24 |
| 3.0 | \$214.08 | 6.0 | \$161.28 | 9.0 | \$108.48 |

LEA\#
SCHOOL DISTRICT

1. Average Daily Transported
2. Area
3. Density (ADT divided by Area)
4. Rate per Student (from A.C.A. 6-20-1715)
5. Student Aid (Rate per Student times ADT)
6. Depreciation Allowance:

| Seating | 30 | No. | 45 | Capacity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Capacity | 31 | Units | 46 | of Fleet |
| 89 | 32 |  | 47 |  |
| 83 | 33 |  | 48 |  |
| 77 | 34 |  | 49 |  |
| 71 | 35 |  | 50 |  |
| 65 | 36 |  | 51 |  |
| 59 | 37 |  | 52 |  |
| 53 | 38 |  | 53 |  |
| 47 | 39 |  | 54 |  |
| 41 | 40 |  | 55 |  |
| 35 | 41 |  |  |  |

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As Engrossed: S3/27/97 S3/31/97
HB 2163
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7. Student aid plus total depreciation allowance
7. Student aid plus total depreciation allowance
8. Minimum Aid
8. Minimum Aid
9. Maximum Aid
9. Maximum Aid
10. Total Aid qualified for (between lines 8 and 9)
10. Total Aid qualified for (between lines 8 and 9)
11. Handicapped Aid:
11. Handicapped Aid:
    a. No. Buses © $300 each
    a. No. Buses © $300 each
    b. Wheel Chair Lifts @ $200 each
    b. Wheel Chair Lifts @ $200 each
    c. Children with disabilities @ $25 each
    c. Children with disabilities @ $25 each
12. Disaster Aid.
12. Disaster Aid.
13. High Cost Adjustment Factor
13. High Cost Adjustment Factor
14. Total Transportation Aid
14. Total Transportation Aid
    (line 10 plus line 11 plus line 12 minus line 13)
    (line 10 plus line 11 plus line 12 minus line 13)
15. Workshop Aid.
15. Workshop Aid.
16. Total Approved Aid (line 13 plus line 14)
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16. Total Approved Aid (line 13 plus line 14)
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SECTION 4. Transportation Funding Commission
(a) There shall be established a School Transportation Funding Commission to study issues concerning high cost student transportation.
(b) The Commission shall consist of:
(1) The Director of General Education, or his designee; (2) Representative from Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators;
(3) Representative from the Arkansas School Boards Association; (4) Representative from the Arkansas Educators Association; (5) Representative from the Arkansas Association of Pupil Transportation Officers; (6) Five (5) superintendents of Public Schools chosen by the Director of General Education;
(7) Two (2) Members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker; and
(8) Two (2) members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro
Tempore.
(c) The Commission shall file a report with its findings to the
Arkansas General Assembly by December 30, 1998.
(d) The Commission shall include in its report proposed legislation to
maintain, supplement or replace the "High Cost Transportation Funding Act of
1997."
(e) The State Department of Education shall set aside sixty thousand
dollars (\$60,000) per annum for the Commission. These funds shall be used for
supplies, copies, and Professional Service Contracts, including data analysis,
as the Director of General Education may see fit.
SECTION 5. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.
SECTION 6. 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 application, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared severable.
SECTION 7. General Repealer. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.
SECTION 8. EMERGENCY. It is found and determined by the General Assembly that the effectiveness of this act on July 1, 1997, is essential to

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the operation of the school districts that may qualify to receive high cost
transportation funding, and that in the event of an extension of the Regular
Session any delay in the effective date of this act beyond July 1, 1997, could
work irreparable harm to the school districts and to the efficient operation
of the Department of Education. Therefore, an emergency is 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 July
\[
1,1997 .
\]
/s/Baker et al
APPROVED: 4-05-97```

