

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

1 State of Arkansas  
2 81st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1997  
4

As Engrossed: H3/12/97

# A Bill

ACT 965 OF 1997  
HOUSE BILL 1988

5 By: Representative Joe Hudson  
6  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 "AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
10 EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO PUT DISTANCE LEARNING IN  
11 ALL ARKANSAS SCHOOL DISTRICTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."  
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### Subtitle

13  
14 "TO REQUIRE THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
15 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A  
16 PLAN TO PUT DISTANCE LEARNING IN ALL  
17 ARKANSAS SCHOOL DISTRICTS."  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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#### SECTION 1. Purpose.

21 The purpose of this act is to serve as a legislative mandate for the  
22 planning and ultimate establishment of a distance learning network designed:  
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24 (1) To improve course offerings available to high school students  
25 throughout the state; and

26 (2) To more efficiently prepare high school students for greater  
27 success in the postsecondary educational environment and in the workplace.  
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#### SECTION 2. Definitions.

29 As used in this act:

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31 (1) "Department" means the General Education Division of the State  
32 Department of Education;

33 (2) "Director" means the Director of the General Education Division of  
34 the State Department of Education;

35 (3) "Distance learning network" means an interactive telecommunications  
36 system that utilizes information technology, audio, video, and similar

1 technological elements, is compatible with other distance learning networks,  
2 and is used for the purpose of enhancing instructional opportunities for  
3 Arkansas public school students;

4 (4) "Education service cooperative" means one of the immediate service  
5 units in the State's elementary and secondary education system established  
6 under §§ 6-13-1001 et seq.

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8 SECTION 3. Plan and reporting.

9 (a) By January 1, 1998, the Director of the State Department of  
10 Education shall develop a plan whereby all school districts, in partnership  
11 with the education service cooperatives and the Department of Education, will  
12 be able to utilize distance learning through a distance learning network to be  
13 known as the Arkansas Distance Learning Network.

14 (b) Such plan shall apply information derived from the Arkansas  
15 Distance Learning Demonstration Project, conducted by the Ozark Unlimited  
16 Resources Educational Cooperative Network (OURNET) under authority of  
17 §§ 6-47-101 et seq. as well as other organizations which provide similar  
18 services.

19 (c) The director shall present the plan and recommendations for  
20 implementing legislation to the Senate and House Interim Committees on  
21 Education and to the Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and  
22 Information Technology at least three (3) months prior to the 1999 Regular  
23 Session.

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25 SECTION 4. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature  
26 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code  
27 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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29 SECTION 5. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to  
30 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
31 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without  
32 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
33 act are declared to be severable.

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

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*/s/Rep. Joe Hudson*

APPROVED: 3-31-97