

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 83rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2001
4

As Engrossed: S3/19/01

A Bill

Act 1398 of 2001
SENATE BILL 907

5 By: Senator Riggs
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS BLUE RIBBON
10 COMMISSION ON PUBLIC EDUCATION; AND FOR OTHER
11 PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS BLUE
15 RIBBON COMMISSION ON PUBLIC EDUCATION.
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Blue Ribbon Commission on Public Education.

21 (a) There is created a legislative committee to be known as the
22 "Arkansas Blue Ribbon Commission on Public Education", to be composed of the
23 following members:

24 (1) Twenty (20) members shall be residents of the state who are
25 knowledgeable in teaching, education professions, business, labor, industry,
26 or economic development;

27 (2) Five (5) members shall be parents of children currently
28 enrolled in a kindergarten through twelve (K-12) public educational
29 institution in the state;

30 (3) Two (2) members who are the chairs of the House and Senate
31 Interim Committees on Education, who shall serve exofficio and shall be
32 nonvoting members;

33 (4) Two (2) members who are the chairs of the House and Senate
34 Interim Committees on Revenue and Taxation, who shall serve exofficio and
35 shall be nonvoting members; and

36 (5) Two (2) members who are the chairs of the Joint Budget

1 Committee, who shall serve ex officio and shall be nonvoting members;

2 (b)(1)(A) The Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the
3 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairperson of the House Interim
4 Committee on Education, and the Chairperson of the Senate Interim Committee on
5 Education shall each appoint:

6 (i) Four (4) of the twenty (20) members as required
7 under subsection (a)(1) of this section; and

8 (ii) One (1) of the five (5) members as required
9 under subsection (a)(2) of this section.

10 (B) These appointments must be made within six (6) weeks
11 after the effective date of this act.

12 (2) In the event a vacancy occurs on the commission, the vacancy
13 shall be filled by the same process as the original appointment.

14 (c) The chairperson of the Senate Interim Committee on Education shall
15 call the first meeting and serve as chairperson until the time, during the
16 first meeting, the twenty-five (25) voting members of the board elect from
17 among themselves a chairperson.

18 (d)(1) In carrying out its functions, the commission may create
19 advisory committees as it deems necessary.

20 (2) The memberships of these advisory committees may include both
21 members of the commission, and other persons drawn from sources other than the
22 commission, all of whom shall serve at the pleasure of the task force.

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24 SECTION 2. Purpose.

25 The purpose of the General Assembly in establishing the Arkansas Blue
26 Ribbon Commission on Public Education is to:

27 (1) Seek to actively involve the private sector as full and
28 valued partners in the improvement process;

29 (2) Define the components of the constitutional mandate for "a
30 general, suitable and efficient system of free public schools";

31 (3) Define an equitable and adequate system of free public
32 education;

33 (4) Assess current efforts to improve the state's system of
34 public education; and

35 (5) Propose and recommend legislation for the 2003 Regular
36 Session of the General Assembly.

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2 SECTION 3. Donations, grants, or legislative appropriations.

3 (a) The research, activities, and other mandates performed by the
4 commission under the provisions of this act may be funded by donations,
5 grants, or legislative appropriation.

6 (b) All donations, grants, and appropriations received shall be
7 accounted for by the commission.

8 (c) The chairperson of the commission may solicit and receive donations
9 and grants for the purposes of this act.

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11 SECTION 4. Report.

12 The Arkansas Blue Ribbon Commission on Public Education shall submit a
13 report and its recommendations for any proposed legislation to the House and
14 Senate Interim Committees on Education, the House and Senate Interim
15 Committees on Revenue and Taxation, and the Arkansas Legislative Council on or
16 before July 1, 2002. In addition, the commission shall submit a report and
17 recommendations for any proposed legislation to the Governor, the State Board
18 of Education, the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities,
19 and the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

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21 SECTION 5. Staff support.

22 The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff support for the
23 Arkansas Blue Ribbon Commission on Public Education. Additional support shall
24 be provided by all the appropriate agencies of state government upon written
25 request of the co-chairpersons.

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27 SECTION 6. Per diem.

28 (a) Legislative members of the Arkansas Blue Ribbon Commission on
29 Public Education shall be entitled to per diem and mileage at the same rate
30 authorized by law for attendance at meetings of interim committees of the
31 General Assembly and shall be paid from the same source.

32 (b) Non-legislative members of the task force shall receive per diem
33 and mileage at the same rate authorized by law for attendance at meetings of
34 interim committees of the General Assembly, provided appropriated funds are
35 available.

1 SECTION 7. Expiration.

2 This act shall expire on January 1, 2003.

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4 SECTION 8. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General
5 Assembly that recent information indicates that the state has severe and
6 pressing needs regarding the state's system of elementary and secondary
7 education. In order to fully address all issues relevant to the state's
8 system of elementary and secondary education, a thorough review of the state's
9 education system shall immediately be undertaken. Therefore, an emergency is
10 declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the
11 preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall become effective on
12 the date of its approval by the Governor. If the bill is neither approved nor
13 vetoed by the Governor, it shall become effective on the expiration of the
14 period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill. If the bill is
15 vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, it shall become effective
16 on the date the last house overrides the veto.

17 */s/ Riggs*

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20 APPROVED: BECAME LAW ON 4/6/2001, WITHOUT THE GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE.