

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.

Act 1015 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas
2 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007
4

As Engrossed: H3/22/07

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2734

5 By: Representatives Hawkins, Pickett, Rainey
6 By: Senator Argue
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9 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

10 AN ACT TO ENSURE A RIGOROUS AND EFFICIENT
11 CURRICULUM FOR ARKANSAS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS;
12 CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM; AND FOR
13 OTHER PURPOSES.
14

15 **Subtitle**

16 AN ACT TO ENSURE A RIGOROUS AND
17 EFFICIENT CURRICULUM FOR ARKANSAS HIGH
18 SCHOOL STUDENTS.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 2 is amended*
24 *to add an additional section to read as follows:*

25 6-15-214. Advanced placement course counted as core curriculum course
26 taught.

27 (a) The purpose of this section is to assist small, rural public
28 schools in providing students access to the most rigorous courses available
29 if it is the desire of students to take Advanced Placement courses in the
30 place of regular courses and, in doing so, to meet the requirements of the
31 Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts.

32 (b) The Department of Education acknowledges that the rigor and level
33 of difficulty of Advanced Placement courses exceed the requirements of
34 regular courses. Such rigor and level of difficulty are validated through
35 the required Advanced Placement Audit and Advanced Placement examinations.



1 (c) The State Board of Education shall consider an Advanced Placement
2 course as being taught for one (1) of the required courses under the
3 Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts
4 if:

5 (1) The public school district has a qualified teacher for the
6 required course;

7 (2) No students enrolled in the course;

8 (3) An Advanced Placement course in the same subject area as the
9 required course has students enrolled in the course;

10 (4) The public school district teaches all other courses
11 required by the Standards for Accreditation; and

12 (5)(A) The public school district teaches the required course to
13 any student who enrolls in the public school district after the school year
14 begins.

15 (B) The public school district may teach the required
16 course to a new student:

17 (i) In a traditional classroom setting;

18 (ii) Through distance learning with a qualified
19 teacher, or

20 (iii) By modifying the Advanced Placement course on
21 an individual level to accommodate the new student.

22 (d)(1)(A) The public school district shall notify the Department of
23 Education after registration in the spring prior to the beginning of the new
24 school year and immediately after the school year begins if no students
25 enrolled in the required course and the public school district will seek to
26 meet the Standards of Accreditation using the Advanced Placement course.

27 (B) Upon receiving the public school district notification
28 and after spring registration, the department shall permit the public school
29 district to meet the standards by teaching the Advanced Placement course in
30 place of the required course.

31 (e) If a new student enrolls in the required course, the public school
32 district shall immediately notify the Department of Education.

33 (f) The department shall establish procedures to ensure that no
34 student is coerced into taking an Advanced Placement course for the purpose
35 of meeting the Standards of Accreditation.

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1 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
2 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that a rigorous curriculum is
3 essential for the improvement of public school student achievement in
4 Arkansas; that efficient and consistent enforcement of the Standards of
5 Accreditation are vital to the public education system; that public school
6 districts should have some efficient method of teaching Advanced Placement
7 courses as part of the accredited curriculum; that this act provides the
8 flexibility needed to ensure that a rigorous curriculum is efficiently
9 delivered to all public school students. Therefore, an emergency is declared
10 to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the
11 public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

12 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

13 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
14 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
15 bill; or

16 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
17 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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19 /s/ Hawkins, et al

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21 APPROVED: 4/3/2007