

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 811 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009

A Bill

SENATE BILL 898

4
5 By: Senators Miller, Laverty, Broadway
6 By: Representatives Abernathy, Cheatham, Cook, Cooper, Everett, Hoyt, Perry, Stewart

For An Act To Be Entitled

7
8
9
10 AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
11 RELATING TO FUNDING FOR ISOLATED SCHOOLS; AND FOR
12 OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

13
14
15 TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
16 RELATING TO FUNDING FOR ISOLATED
17 SCHOOLS.

18
19
20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

21
22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-20-603(i), concerning the funding for
23 isolated schools, is amended to read as follows:

24 (i)(1) Except as provided under § 6-20-604(g), A a school district
25 eligible to receive isolated funding under this section shall continue to
26 receive partial funding even if all or part of an isolated school is closed.

27 (2) If all or part of an isolated school in a school district is
28 closed, the school district shall receive funding based on the prior year's
29 three-quarter average daily membership of the isolated school or the part of
30 the isolated school that remains open.

31 ~~(3) The school district shall not receive funding under this~~
32 ~~subsection (i) if the closure is directed by the school district board of~~
33 ~~directors.~~

34
35 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-20-604(c)(1), concerning eligibility of



1 an isolated school for special needs funding, is amended to read as follows:

2 (1) School facilities ~~open for~~ servicing students in any grade in
 3 kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12), in ~~two (2)~~ one (1) or more isolated
 4 schools meeting the requirements of subsection (b) of this section;

5
 6 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-20-604(h), concerning certain special
 7 needs funding for isolated schools is amended to read as follows:

8 (h)(1) This section is contingent on the appropriation and
 9 availability of funding for its purposes.

10 (2)(A) Undistributed funds under this section and § 6-20-603
 11 allocated to a school district that is no longer eligible to receive the
 12 funding shall be distributed on an equal basis per school district to each
 13 remaining school district that is eligible to receive funds under subsections
 14 (c)-(e) of this section.

15 (B) Funds distributed under subdivision (h)(2)(A) of this
 16 section shall be used by the school district only for transportation costs of
 17 the isolated schools in the school district.

18 (3) Funding provided under this section is in addition to
 19 and in excess of the amount of funds necessary to provide an adequate
 20 education as required by the Arkansas Constitution and cannot be relied upon
 21 beyond the ~~2007-2009 biennium~~ expiration date of an appropriation made for
 22 the purposes of this section.

23
 24 SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General
 25 Assembly of the State of Arkansas that school districts that enroll students
 26 in an isolated school or from a closed isolated school need funding for the
 27 transportation of those students to and from the isolated area; that some
 28 school districts may lose isolated school funding when an isolated school is
 29 closed but continue to have the additional transportation costs; that the
 30 loss of the funding may place a hardship on the school district involved; and
 31 that this act is immediately necessary because school districts affected by
 32 this act and the Department of Education need to resolve the funding issues
 33 under this act before the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year. Therefore,
 34 an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary
 35 for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become
 36 effective on:

- 1 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;
- 2 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
- 3 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
- 4 bill; or
- 5 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
- 6 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

7

8 **APPROVED: 4/3/2009**

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36