## Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law. Act 1440 of the Regular Session

1 2	State of Arkansas 89th General Assembly	As Engrossed:	H1/30/13 S4/16/13 A Bill		
	Regular Session, 2013			HOUSE BILL 1017	
3 4	Regulai Session, 2013			HOUSE BILL 1017	
5	Ry: Renresentatives D. Altes	Rallinger Harris P	Payton		
6	By: Representatives D. Altes, <i>Ballinger, Harris, Payton</i> By: Senator G. Stubblefield				
7	Dy. Sentitor G. Stille oregiciti				
8	For An Act To Be Entitled				
9	AN ACT TO ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ADOPT CURRICULUM				
10	STANDARDS AS DIRECTED BY THIS ACT FOR AN ACADEMIC				
11	STUDY OF THE BIBLE COURSE THAT MAY BE OFFERED AS AN				
12	ELECTIVE COURSE IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT; TO SET				
13	REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHING AN ACADEMIC STUDY OF THE				
14	BIBLE COURSE IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL AS DIRECTED BY THIS				
15	ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.				
16					
17					
18	Subtitle				
19	TO ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ADOPT				
20	CURRICULUM STANDARDS FOR AN ACADEMIC				
21	STUDY OF THE BIBLE COURSE AS DIRECTED BY				
22	THIS ACT.				
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24					
25	BE IT ENACTED BY THE (	GENERAL ASSEMBLY	OF THE STATE OF ARK	ANSAS:	
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27	SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1 is amended				
28	to add an additional section to read as follows:				
29	6-16-142. Academic study of the Bible course.				
30	(a)(1) The State Board of Education shall allow for an elective				
31	academic study of the Bible course or courses that consist of a nonsectarian,				
32	nonreligious academic study of the Bible and its influence on literature,				
33	art, music, culture, and politics to be offered to students in public school				
34	districts, if the academic study of the Bible course meets the standards				
35	listed in this section.				
36	<u>(2) The c</u>	<u>curriculum <i>stand</i></u>	lards submitted by a	<u>public school</u>	



1	district for approval of an academic study of the Bible course shall meet			
2	the:			
3	(A) Academic rigor and curriculum standards of other			
4	elective courses approved by the state board; and			
5	(B) Requirements of the Arkansas Constitution and the			
6	United States Constitution.			
7	(b)(1) A public school district that elects to offer an academic stud			
8	of the Bible course shall implement the course in accordance with the			
9	Arkansas Constitution and the United States Constitution, including the			
10	manner in which the course is taught in the classroom and the assignment of			
11	school district personnel teaching the course.			
12	(2) Personnel assigned to teach the course shall be licensed to			
13	teach in the State of Arkansas.			
14	(3) Personnel shall not be assigned to teach the course based on			
15	any:			
16	(A) Religious test;			
17	(B) Profession of faith or lack of faith;			
18	(C) Prior or present religious affiliation or lack of			
19	affiliation; or			
20	(D) Criteria involving particular beliefs or lack of			
21	beliefs about the Bible.			
22	(c) An academic study of the Bible course offered by a public school			
23	district shall:			
24	(1) Be taught in an objective and nondevotional manner with no			
25	attempt made to indoctrinate students as to either the truth or falsity of			
26	the biblical materials or texts from other religious or cultural traditions;			
27	(2) Not include teaching of religious doctrine or sectarian			
28	interpretation of the Bible or of texts from other religious or cultural			
29	traditions; and			
30	(3) Not disparage or encourage a commitment to a set of			
31	religious beliefs.			
32	(d) A public school district that elects to offer an academic study of			
33	the Bible course shall use only the standards in this section to:			
34	(1) Evaluate textbooks for an academic study of the Bible			
35	course; and			
36	(2) Teach an academic study of the Bible course.			

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2	SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY.
3	(a) The State Board of Education shall apply the existing adopted
4	rules governing elective course offerings and permitting a school district to
5	adopt and teach elective courses to a school district that chooses to adopt
6	and teach an academic study of the Bible course as an elective course.
7	(b) This act does not require the state board to adopt new rules,
8	standards, or curriculum frameworks.
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10	/s/D. Altes
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13	APPROVED: 04/22/2013
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