

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1461

5 By: Representative Wing
6 By: Senator Hester
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO EXPAND THE NUMBER OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS
10 ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUCCEED SCHOLARSHIP
11 PROGRAM; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 TO EXPAND THE NUMBER OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS
16 ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUCCEED
17 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND TO DECLARE AN
18 EMERGENCY.
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-41-803(b)(1), concerning private school
25 eligibility for the Succeed Scholarship Program, is amended to read as
26 follows:

27 (b) The department shall approve a private school as eligible to
28 participate in the program if the private school:

29 (1) Either:

30 (A) Meets the accreditation requirements set by the State
31 Board of Education, the Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association or
32 its successor, or another accrediting association recognized by the State
33 Board of Education as providing services to severely disabled individuals; or

34 (B)(i) Is an associate member of or has applied for
35 accreditation by the Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association or its
36 successor, or another accrediting association recognized by the State Board



1 of Education as providing services to severely disabled individuals.

2 (ii) A private school shall no longer be eligible
 3 if:

4 (a) The private school has not received
 5 accreditation within four (4) years of becoming eligible under subdivision
 6 (b)(1)(B)(i) of this section;

7 (b) The accrediting association determines
 8 that the private school is ineligible or unable to continue the accreditation
 9 process; or

10 (c) It becomes impossible for the private
 11 school to obtain accreditation within four (4) years.

12 (iii) A private school that becomes ineligible under
 13 subdivision (b)(1)(B)(ii) of this section shall regain eligibility when the
 14 private school receives accreditation;

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 16 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
 17 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that there is a demand for more
 18 private schools to participate in the Succeed Scholarship Program; that
 19 allowing private schools who have applied for accreditation to be eligible to
 20 participate in the program will help meet that demand; and that this act is
 21 immediately necessary to ensure that these newly eligible private schools can
 22 serve students who have received Succeed Scholarships in the 2017-2018 school
 23 year. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being
 24 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and
 25 safety shall become effective on:

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

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

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

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 34 **APPROVED: 03/02/2017**