

Hall of the House of Representatives
85th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2005
Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Bill No. 2566

"AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR DISTANCE LEARNING."

Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 2566.

Amend House Bill No. 2566 as originally introduced:

Page 1, delete SECTION 1. in its entirety and substitute the following:

“SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-47-404 is amended to read as follows:
6-47-404. Establishment and implementation.

(a) There is established the Arkansas Distance Learning Development ~~Project~~ Program, which shall be conducted by the Department of Education and administered through the Director of the Department of Education.

(b) The ~~project~~ program shall have four (4) focus areas:

(1) To help alleviate the increasing shortage of available qualified teachers;

(2) To provide additional course-scheduling opportunities for students currently forced to choose between courses that are scheduled infrequently or ~~currently~~ concurrently;

(3) To provide an opportunity for students to access an enriched curriculum and additional courses beyond those mandated by the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools; and

(4) To develop and make available online professional development and instructional resources for all teachers and administrators.

(c)(1)(A) The funding necessary to carry out the provisions of this subchapter may be derived from donations, grants, or legislative appropriation.

(B) The ~~project~~ program shall receive from the Public School Fund an amount equal to one-sixth (1/6) of the previous year's ~~base local revenue~~ state foundation funding per student for each student enrolled in a course at the secondary level or for each subject at the elementary level.

(2) The director may solicit and receive donations and grants for the purpose of administering the program.

(3)(A) All donations, grants, and appropriations received shall be accounted for by the department.

(B) Fund balances may be carried over from one year to the next to continue the project.

(d) The director shall review the implementation of this program annually and make recommendations to the State Board of Education regarding



the number and amount of awards to ensure that the purpose of the program is achieved.

(e) The director may enter into contracts or provide grants to local education agencies, education service cooperatives, or other entities for personnel, facilities, and services necessary to implement this ~~project~~ program.

(f) Students taking courses through this ~~project~~ program shall be considered entitled to any public education credits and grades assigned through this ~~project~~ program, and those credits and grades shall be accepted by all public schools in Arkansas.

(g) Courses offered or taught through the Arkansas Distance Learning Development Program may be offered or taught to public school students, private school students, and home school students in the State of Arkansas.

(h) A home school student or a private school student enrolled in a distance learning course shall not be entitled to any rights, privileges, courses, activities, or services available to a public school student or open-enrollment charter school student other than receiving appropriate credit for a completed distance learning course.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 47, Subchapter 4 is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-47-406. Public school district and charter school distance learning program.

(a) Public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools may offer and teach distance learning courses to students legally attending the public school or charter school.

(b) Public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools may offer and teach distance learning courses to students enrolled in a private school or a home school if:

(1) The student resides in the public school district where the public school or open-enrollment charter school is located;

(2) The student agrees to physically attend the public school or open-enrollment charter school for purposes of taking a distance learning course taught or offered through the public school or charter school; and

(3) The public school or open-enrollment charter school teaches or offers a distance learning course that has been approved by and otherwise complies with Department of Education rules and standards governing distance learning courses.

(c)(1) A public school district or open-enrollment charter school that teaches or offers a distance learning course to one (1) or more home school or private school students who meet the conditions of subsection (b) of this section shall be entitled to an amount equal to one-sixth (1/6) of the state foundation funding amount for each private school student or home school student who is:

(A) Enrolled in one (1) or more distance learning courses in the public school district or open-enrollment charter school; and

(B) Physically attending one (1) or more distance learning courses on the campus of the public school district or open-enrollment charter school.

(2) However, under no circumstances shall a public school district or open-enrollment charter school be entitled to more than the

equivalent of state foundation funding for one (1.0) average daily membership per student regardless of the number of distance learning courses received by a particular home school or private school student.

(d) A home school student or a private school student enrolled in a distance learning course shall not be entitled to any rights, privileges, courses, activities, or services available to a public school student or open-enrollment charter school student other than receiving appropriate credit for a completed distance learning course.

(e) This section shall not be construed to entitle a home school student or private school student to participate in, enroll in, or attend any other courses, activities, or services provided by a public school district or an open-enrollment charter school.

(f) Any public school district or charter school seeking to offer or teach distance learning courses to public school students, home school students, or private school students must first have those course offerings approved by the Department of Education Distance Learning Program.

(g) No public school district or open-enrollment charter school shall establish or provide a virtual school or distance learning course except as allowed by this section."

The Amendment was read _____
By: Representative Mahony
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Chief Clerk