

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.

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2707

4
5 By: Representative Mahony
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7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO ENCOURAGE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO MERGE;
10 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12
13 AN ACT TO ENCOURAGE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO
14 MERGE.
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16

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 13, Subchapter 16 is amended
20 to add an additional section to read as follows:

21 6-13-1606. Merger incentives.

22 (a) To encourage voluntary mergers of school district, the Department
23 of Education may:

24 (1) Provide any school district that voluntarily agrees to
25 consolidate or annex under any provision of state law with:

26 (A) One thousand dollars (\$1,000) multiplied by the
27 average daily membership of the resulting district in the school year
28 following the merger; and

29 (B) Seven hundred dollars (\$700) multiplied by the total
30 number of national school lunch qualifying students in the resulting district
31 in the school year following the merger;

32 (2) Exempt the resulting school district from any State Board of
33 Education rule or requirement for a period of time to be determined on each
34 individual school basis by the State Board of Education;

35 (3) Exempt the resulting school district from any reporting
36 requirements, assessments, monitoring, or The Quality Education Act of 2003,



1 § 6-15-201 et seq. for a period of time to be determined on each individual
2 school basis by the State Board of Education;

3 (4) Exempt the resulting district from minimum teacher salary
4 requirements, or the Teacher Fair Dismissal Act, § 6-17-1501 et seq.;

5 (5) Assume or forgive debts of the affected school districts; or

6 (6) Provide any combination of the incentives set forth under
7 this subsection (a).

8 (b) The incentive provided in this section shall be in addition to any
9 other consolidation or annexation incentive funds available to the school
10 district.

11 (c)(1) Merger incentive funds provided under this section may be used
12 by the school district for any legal purpose.

13 (2) The funds shall be paid to the resulting administratively
14 consolidated or annexed school district during the first year of the
15 consolidated or annexed district's existence.

16 (d) The provisions of this section shall be contingent on the
17 appropriation and availability of funds for the purpose of this section.

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