

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 87th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2009

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2164

4  
5 By: Representative Rainey  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE COMMISSION ON CLOSING THE  
10 ACHIEVEMENT GAP IN ARKANSAS; TO PROVIDE TRAINING  
11 FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON CLOSING THE  
12 ACHIEVEMENT GAP IN ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER  
13 PURPOSES.  
14

## Subtitle

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16 TO AMEND THE COMMISSION ON CLOSING THE  
17 ACHIEVEMENT GAP IN ARKANSAS AND TO  
18 PROVIDE TRAINING FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE  
19 COMMISSION ON CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT  
20 GAP IN ARKANSAS.  
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1601(b) concerning membership is  
26 amended to read as follows:

27 (b) The commission shall consist of ~~twelve (12)~~ eleven (11) members  
28 representing the racial and ethnic diversity of Arkansas as follows:

29 (1)(A) ~~Four (4)~~ Five (5) persons appointed by the Governor.

30 (B)(i) ~~One (1) of the Governor's appointees shall be a~~  
31 ~~member of the faculty of an historically black college in the state who has~~  
32 ~~demonstrated an interest in and commitment to working with disadvantaged~~  
33 ~~youth.~~

34 ~~(ii) One (1) of the Governor's appointees shall be~~  
35 ~~an Hispanic who has demonstrated a commitment to education.~~

36 ~~(iii) One (1) of the Governor's appointees shall be~~



1 a representative of business and industry in Arkansas, ,

2 ~~(iv) One (1) of the Governor's appointees may be a~~  
3 representative of health and human services, or a public school teacher, .

4 (ii)(a) Four (4) of the Governor's appointees shall  
5 be minority or low-income parents concerned about the achievement gap with  
6 one (1) representative from each of the four (4) congressional districts.

7 (b) A minimum of two (2) of the individuals  
8 appointed under subdivision (b)(1)(B)(ii)(a) of this section shall be African  
9 American.

10 (c) A minimum of one (1) of the individuals  
11 appointed under subdivision (b)(1)(B)(ii)(a) of this section shall be  
12 Hispanic.

13 (2)(A) ~~Four (4)~~ Three (3) persons appointed by the President Pro  
14 Tempore of the Senate.

15 (B)(i) One (1) of the President Pro Tempore's appointees  
16 shall be a member of the school of education faculty of an historically black  
17 college in the state with an accredited school of education.

18 (ii) One (1) of the President Pro Tempore's  
19 appointees shall be a minority who has demonstrated a commitment to  
20 education, ~~and.~~

21 (iii) One (1) of the President Pro Tempore's  
22 appointees shall be a public school teacher with a special expertise in  
23 closing the achievement gap,

24 (3)(A) ~~Four (4)~~ Three (3) persons appointed by the Speaker of  
25 the House of Representatives.

26 (B)(i) One (1) of the Speaker of the House of  
27 Representatives' appointees shall be a person who has experience working with  
28 children from low income families.

29 (ii) One (1) of the Speaker of the House of  
30 Representatives' appointees shall be a minority who has demonstrated a  
31 commitment to education.

32 (iii) One (1) of the Speaker of the House of  
33 Representatives' appointees shall be a public school administrator with a  
34 special expertise in closing the achievement gap.

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1 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1601(f) and (g) concerning unexcused  
 2 absences, meetings, and duties is amended to read as follows:

3 (f)(1) The commission shall meet at times and places the chair deems  
 4 necessary but no fewer than four (4) times per calendar year.

5 (2)(A) Commission members shall attend all meetings with no more  
 6 than ~~one (1)~~ two (2) unexcused ~~absence~~ absences in a period of eighteen (18)  
 7 months.

8 (B) Commission members with more than two (2) unexcused  
 9 absences in a period of eighteen (18) months shall be automatically removed  
 10 from the commission and the original nominating entity for the position shall  
 11 be notified to fill the vacancy.

12 (3) No meetings shall be held outside the State of Arkansas.

13 (4) A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute  
 14 a quorum for the purpose of transacting business.

15 (5) All actions of the commission shall be by a majority vote of  
 16 the full membership of the commission.

17 (6) A minimum of one (1) meeting shall be held in each of the  
 18 four (4) congressional districts every thirty-six (36) months.

19 (g) The commission shall:

20 (1) Develop a plan for the state designed to enable all public  
 21 school students to meet the state's student academic achievement standards  
 22 while working toward the goal of narrowing the achievement gaps in public  
 23 schools for the following subgroups:

24 (A) Economically disadvantaged students; and

25 (B) Students from major racial and ethnic groups;

26 (2) Monitor the Department of Education's efforts to comply with  
 27 federal guidelines on improving the academic achievement of the  
 28 disadvantaged, specifically including, but not limited to, the No Child Left  
 29 Behind Act of 2001;

30 (3)(A) Monitor the department's identification of population  
 31 groups to be motivated in closing the achievement gap efforts.

32 (B) The commission may expand the role and scope of the  
 33 commission to cover specific population groups as identified by the  
 34 department as target groups for closing the achievement gaps; ~~and.~~

35 (4) Receive national school lunch data and reports biennially  
 36 from the Department of Education.

1           (5) Interface with local school district achievement gap  
 2 taskforces created under § 6-15-1603 to provide data on the achievement gap  
 3 and achievement gap intervention strategies;

4           ~~(4)~~(6) File Present a report ~~with the chairs of~~ to the House  
 5 ~~Interim~~ Committee on Education and the Senate ~~Interim~~ Committee on Education,  
 6 the Governor, and the State Board of Education no later than November 1 of  
 7 each year, which shall include without limitation:

8                   (A) Profiles of underachieving students;

9                   (B) Profiles of chronically under performing schools and  
 10 school districts;

11                  (C) A review of policies and programs approved by the  
 12 Department of Education for national school lunch expenditures on closing the  
 13 achievement gap;

14                  (D) Child poverty statistics in the state and the impact  
 15 poverty has on education;

16                   (E) Successful strategies with students of poverty;

17                  (F) Best practices for teacher preparation for student and  
 18 language diversity;

19                  (G) A review of leadership challenges in closing the  
 20 achievement gap; and

21                  (H) Suggested policy changes to improve the achievement  
 22 gap at the legislative, Department of Education, school district, and other  
 23 levels; and

24           ~~(5)~~(7) Create a website that contains without limitation:

25                   (A) Notices of upcoming meetings;

26                   (B) The state plan for closing the achievement gap;

27                  (C) A school district plan for closing the achievement gap  
 28 from each school district;

29                  (D) The membership and contact information for members of  
 30 the commission and each local school district achievement gap taskforce;

31                   (E) The minutes from commission meetings;

32                  (F) A clearinghouse for research and other information the  
 33 commission identifies as important or useful for understanding the  
 34 achievement gap in the state; and

35                  (G) Other information that the commission deems  
 36 appropriate.

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SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1601, concerning the Commission on Closing the Achievement Gap in Arkansas, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(1) The commission may accept gifts, grants, and donations for use in carrying out the purpose and duties of the commission.