

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

SENATE BILL 898

4  
5 By: Senators Miller, Laverty, Broadway  
6 By: Representatives Abernathy, Cheatham, Cook, Cooper, Everett, Hoyt, Perry, Stewart

## For An Act To Be Entitled

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10 AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE  
11 RELATING TO FUNDING FOR ISOLATED SCHOOLS; AND FOR  
12 OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

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15 TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE  
16 RELATING TO FUNDING FOR ISOLATED  
17 SCHOOLS.

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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-20-603(i), concerning the funding for  
23 isolated schools, is amended to read as follows:

24 (i)(1) Except as provided under § 6-20-604(g), A a school district  
25 eligible to receive isolated funding under this section shall continue to  
26 receive partial funding even if all or part of an isolated school is closed.

27 (2) If all or part of an isolated school in a school district is  
28 closed, the school district shall receive funding based on the prior year's  
29 three-quarter average daily membership of the isolated school or the part of  
30 the isolated school that remains open.

31 ~~(3) The school district shall not receive funding under this~~  
32 ~~subsection (i) if the closure is directed by the school district board of~~  
33 ~~directors.~~

34  
35 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-20-604(c)(1), concerning eligibility of  
36 an isolated school for special needs funding, is amended to read as follows:



1           (1) School facilities ~~open for~~ servicing students in any grade in  
 2 kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12), in ~~two (2)~~ one (1) or more isolated  
 3 schools meeting the requirements of subsection (b) of this section;

4  
 5           SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-20-604(h), concerning certain special  
 6 needs funding for isolated schools is amended to read as follows:

7           (h)(1) This section is contingent on the appropriation and  
 8 availability of funding for its purposes.

9           (2)(A) Undistributed funds under this section and § 6-20-603  
 10 allocated to a school district that is no longer eligible to receive the  
 11 funding shall be distributed on an equal basis per school district to each  
 12 remaining school district that is eligible to receive funds under subsections  
 13 (c)-(e) of this section.

14           (B) Funds distributed under subdivision (h)(2)(A) of this  
 15 section shall be used by the school district only for transportation costs of  
 16 the isolated schools in the school district.

17           (3) Funding provided under this section is in addition to  
 18 and in excess of the amount of funds necessary to provide an adequate  
 19 education as required by the Arkansas Constitution and cannot be relied upon  
 20 beyond the ~~2007-2009 biennium~~ expiration date of an appropriation made for  
 21 the purposes of this section.

22  
 23           SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General  
 24 Assembly of the State of Arkansas that school districts that enroll students  
 25 in an isolated school or from a closed isolated school need funding for the  
 26 transportation of those students to and from the isolated area; that some  
 27 school districts may lose isolated school funding when an isolated school is  
 28 closed but continue to have the additional transportation costs; that the  
 29 loss of the funding may place a hardship on the school district involved; and  
 30 that this act is immediately necessary because school districts affected by  
 31 this act and the Department of Education need to resolve the funding issues  
 32 under this act before the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year. Therefore,  
 33 an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary  
 34 for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become  
 35 effective on:

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

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

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

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