

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1410

5 By: Representative Mayberry
6 By: Senator J. Woods
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO PROVIDE AUTHORITY FOR ARKANSAS PUBLIC
10 SCHOOLS TO OFFER AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AS A CREDIT-
11 BEARING MODERN LANGUAGE OR FOREIGN LANGUAGE; AND FOR
12 OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

16 TO PROVIDE AUTHORITY FOR ARKANSAS PUBLIC
17 SCHOOLS TO OFFER AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE
18 AS A CREDIT-BEARING MODERN LANGUAGE OR
19 FOREIGN LANGUAGE.
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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 Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1, is amended
25 to add an additional section to read as follows:

26 6-16-142. American Sign Language as modern language or foreign
27 language.

28 (a) As used in this section, "American Sign Language" means the visual
29 natural language recognized globally that is linguistically complete with
30 unique rules for language structure and use, including without limitation
31 phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and discourse.

32 (b)(1) American Sign Language may be taught in the public schools of
33 the state as a modern language or foreign language.

34 (2) An American Sign Language course shall:

35 (A) Adhere to standards of rigor and proficiency
36 consistent with content standards and curriculum frameworks for foreign



1 language courses developed by the State Board of Education; and

2 (B) Receive academic credit equal to other foreign

3 language courses.

4 (c) The state board shall promulgate rules for the licensure and
5 curriculum requirements necessary to implement this section.

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