

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

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 844

4  
5 By: Senator J. Key

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE BOARD OF  
9 EDUCATION APPROVAL OF A VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION OR  
10 CONSOLIDATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

14 TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE BOARD  
15 OF EDUCATION APPROVAL OF A VOLUNTARY  
16 ANNEXATION OR CONSOLIDATION.

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

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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-13-1403, concerning the conditions under  
22 which the State Board of Education may annex school districts, is amended to  
23 add a new subsection to read as follows:

24 (g)(1) The state board shall not deny a petition for voluntary  
25 annexation of two (2) or more school districts unless one (1) of the  
26 petitioning districts:

27 (A) Is under the administrative control of the Department  
28 of Education for violations of the:

29 (i) State's academic accountability system under the  
30 Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program Act, §  
31 6-15-401 et seq., including without limitation academic distress; or

32 (ii) Standards for Accreditation of Public Schools  
33 and School Districts under The Quality Education Act of 2003, § 6-15-201 et  
34 seq.;

35 (B) Is identified as being in fiscal distress under the  
36 Arkansas Fiscal Assessment and Accountability Program, § 6-20-1901 et seq.;



1                   (C) Is classified as a school district in facilities  
2 distress under § 6-21-811; or

3                   (D)(i) As a result of the annexation, will be placed at  
4 risk of being in one (1) or more of the conditions identified in subdivision  
5 (g)(1)(A)-(C) of this section.

6                   (ii) If the Department of Education recommends  
7 denying a voluntary petition for annexation under this subdivision (g)(4),  
8 the department shall provide to the state board evidence to support the  
9 recommendation.

10                  (2) This subsection (g) does not require the state board to deny  
11 a petition for voluntary annexation for the reasons identified in the  
12 subsection.

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14                  SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-13-1404, concerning the conditions under  
15 which the State Board of Education may consolidate school districts, is  
16 amended to add a new subsection to read as follows:

17                  (g)(1) The state board shall not deny the petition for voluntary  
18 consolidation of two (2) or more school districts unless one (1) of the  
19 petitioning districts is:

20                   (A) Under the administrative control of the Department of  
21 Education for violations of the:

22                   (i) State's academic accountability system under the  
23 Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program Act, §  
24 6-15-401 et seq., including without limitation academic distress;

25                   (ii) Standards for Accreditation of Public Schools  
26 and School Districts under The Quality Education Act of 2003, § 6-15-201 et  
27 seq.;

28                   (B) Identified as being in fiscal distress under the  
29 Arkansas Fiscal Assessment and Accountability Program, § 6-20-1901 et seq.;

30                   (C) Classified as a school district in facilities distress  
31 under § 6-21-811; or

32                   (D)(i) As a result of the consolidation, will be placed at  
33 risk of being in one (1) or more of the conditions identified in subdivision  
34 (g)(1)(A)-(C) of this section.

35                   (ii) If the Department of Education recommends  
36 denying a voluntary petition for consolidation under this subdivision (g)(4),

1 the department shall provide to the state board evidence to support the  
2 recommendation.

3 (2) This subsection (g) does not require the state board to deny  
4 a petition for voluntary consolidation for the reasons identified in the  
5 subsection.

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