

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1998

5 By: Representative C. Douglas
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO
9 ADOPT ONLY COMPLETE SETS OF STANDARDS; TO PROVIDE A
10 FISCAL IMPACT FOR NEW STANDARDS BEFORE THEY ARE
11 ADOPTED; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
16 TO ADOPT ONLY COMPLETE SETS OF STANDARDS;
17 TO PROVIDE A FISCAL IMPACT FOR NEW
18 STANDARDS BEFORE THEY ARE ADOPTED; AND TO
19 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.
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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 Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 1, is amended
26 to add an additional section to read as follows:

27 6-15-103. Adoption of new educational standards.

28 (a) The State Board of Education and the Department of Education shall
29 not endorse, implement, or accept new educational standards for use in public
30 schools until the new educational standards are:

- 31 (1) Completed for grade kindergarten through twelve (K-12);
- 32 (2) Accompanied by written grade-level tests or assessments; and
- 33 (3) Presented to the public with appropriate time for public
34 comment.

35 (b) The state board and the department shall present a fiscal impact
36 statement for the proposed new educational standards and accompanying grade-



1 level tests or assessments before the new educational standards are endorsed,
2 implemented, or adopted.

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4 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
5 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that experts around the country
6 have studied the Next Generation Science Standards and have determined that
7 they are flawed; that adopting standards before they are completed can be
8 detrimental and costly; and that this act is immediately necessary to prevent
9 further adoption and implementation of the inferior Next Generation Science
10 Standards. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being
11 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and
12 safety shall become effective on:

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

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

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