

Department of Finance and Administration

Legislative Impact Statement

Bill: HB1573 **As Engrossed: 3/11/2019**
Bill Subtitle: TO AMEND AND UPDATE VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING PUBLIC EDUCATION.

Basic Change :

Sponsor: Rep Cozart

Engrossed 03/11/19 --- House Amendment 1 --- Amends the bill to remove existing code language that is not being changed by the provisions in the bill.

Original Bill --- The bill would amend various provisions of the Arkansas Code concerning public education. The bill deletes obsolete language, makes technical corrections, and removes unnecessary provisions from many code chapters and sections. The bill removes language from Arkansas sales and use tax code provisions that referenced the reduced tax rate on sales of food and food ingredients that would become effective when desegregation expenses were reduced or eliminated. The provision is no longer necessary.

HB1573 also amends § 6-19-106 as related to the Office of Driver Services (ODS) and changes the language but does not have make any changes to the requirements to obtain a commercial driver license (CDL) with a school bus endorsement (S).

Revenue Impact :

None.

Taxpayer Impact :

None.

Resources Required :

None.

Time Required :

None.

Procedural Changes :

None.

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Other Comments :

None.

Legal Analysis :

HB1573 updates provisions of state law regarding public education. The changes primarily repeal outdated provisions of state law to update and reflect current language usage. The provisions of the bill affecting DFA are Sections 42, 70, and 71. Section 42 repeals language stating that school bus drivers are exempt from the regular chauffeur's license except when the driver operates buses for purposes other than to transport school children. Sections 70 and 71 repeal language from the sales and use tax law that included the reduction in disbursements for desegregation expenses in the calculation to determine whether the sales tax on food will be reduced.

The change to Section 42 appears consistent with prior acts of the General Assembly. Act 1473 of 2009 replaced the requirement that school bus drivers possess a chauffeur's license with a requirement that those drivers possess a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). The amendment in Section 42 clarifies that school bus drivers must have a CDL even if driving a bus for purposes other than to transport school children.

Engrossment 3/11/19 deletes Section 40 of the bill regarding the Arkansas Commission on Eye & Vision Care of School-Age Children. This amendment does not affect any laws administered by DFA.