

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 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007
4

As Engrossed: H3/12/07 H3/13/07

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2541

5 By: Representatives Wood, *Dickinson*
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ENTER INTO
10 AGREEMENTS WITH THE ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD FOR
11 STUDENT PARTICIPANTS IN THE YOUTH CHALLENGE AND
12 C-STEP PROGRAMS; TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS NATIONAL
13 *GUARD YOUTH CHALLENGE PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTAL FUND*
14 *AND THE ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD C-STEP PROGRAM*
15 *SUPPLEMENTAL FUND; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*
16

Subtitle

17 TO ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ENTER INTO
18 AGREEMENTS WITH THE ARKANSAS NATIONAL
19 GUARD FOR STUDENT PARTICIPANTS IN THE
20 YOUTH CHALLENGE AND C-STEP PROGRAMS.
21
22
23

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
25

26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 2 is amended
27 to add an additional section to read as follows:

28 6-18-230. Agreements with the Arkansas National Guard.

29 (a) As used in this section:

30 (1)(A) "Civilian Student Training Program" or "C-Step Program"
31 means the diversion program that is administered by the Arkansas National
32 Guard for at-risk students who are referred to the program by juvenile court.

33 (B) "Civilian Student Training Program" or "C-Step
34 Program" includes a nine-week residence phase and a twelve-month after-care
35 program.

36 (C) "Civilian Student Training Program" or "C-Step



1 Program” uses a structured, discipline-based, military-styled education and
2 behavioral management model to teach each student participant to improve his
3 or her conduct, school performance, and learning development and to empower
4 each student to earn school credits to enable the student to return to school
5 at or above grade level. The graduates of the Civilian Student Training
6 Program or C-Step Program return to the public school system upon completion
7 of the program;

8 (2) “Sending school district” means the public school district
9 that a student participant attended during the preceding school year for at
10 least three (3) quarters;

11 (3) “Student participant” means a student who is participating
12 in either the Civilian Student Training Program or the Youth Challenge
13 Program as described in this section; and

14 (4)(A) “Youth Challenge Program” means the program administered
15 by the Arkansas National Guard for at-risk students that includes a residence
16 phase and a post-residence phase and that focuses on the student obtaining
17 his or her high school diploma or its equivalent.

18 (B) “Youth Challenge Program” includes eight (8) core
19 components:

20 (i) Academic excellence;

21 (ii) Life-coping skills;

22 (iii) Job skills;

23 (iv) Health and hygiene;

24 (v) Responsible citizenship;

25 (vi) Service to the community;

26 (vii) Leadership and followership; and

27 (viii) Physical fitness.

28 (C) “Youth Challenge Program” includes a twenty-two (22)
29 week residence phase and a fourteen (14) month post-residence phase.

30 (b)(1) A school district may enter into an agreement with the
31 Administrator of the Youth Challenge Program or the Administrator of the C-
32 Step Program as follows:

33 (A) Five hundred dollars (\$500) for each student
34 participant in the Youth Challenge Program that the sending school district
35 has, to be deposited into the Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge
36 Supplemental Fund; or

1 (B) Three hundred fifty dollars (\$350) for each student
2 participant in the C-Step Program that the sending school district has, to be
3 deposited into the Arkansas National Guard C-Step Supplemental Fund.

4 (2) If an agreement is entered into under this subsection (b),
5 then the agreement shall include:

6 (A) The total amount due from the sending school district;
7 and

8 (B) The time for remittance of the payment.

9 (3) A student participant under this section shall be counted in
10 the sending school district's average daily membership.

11 (c) The Administrator of the Youth Challenge Program or his or her
12 designee shall:

13 (1) Collect information and documentation on each student
14 participant including:

15 (A) The sending school district for each student
16 participant; and

17 (B) The projected date that the student participant will
18 complete the Youth Challenge Program;

19 (2) Submit the information and documentation for each student
20 participant to the sending school district and the Department of Education;

21 (3) Notify the sending school district and the Department of
22 Education after a student participant completes the Youth Challenge Program;

23 and

24 (4) Provide a copy of any agreement between the sending school
25 district and the Youth Challenge Program regarding a student participant to
26 the Department of Education.

27 (d) The Administrator of the C-Step Program or his or her designee
28 shall:

29 (1) Collect information and documentation on each student
30 participant including:

31 (A) The sending school district for each student
32 participant; and

33 (B) The projected date that the student participant will
34 complete the C-Step Program;

35 (2) Submit the information and documentation for each student
36 participant to the sending school district and the Department of Education;

1 (3) Notify the sending school district and the Department of
2 Education after a student participant completes the C-Step Program; and

3 (4) Provide a copy of any agreement between the sending school
4 district and the C-Step Program regarding a student participant to the
5 Department of Education.

6 (e) The Department of Education shall promulgate rules to
7 verify that student participants enrolled in the Youth Challenge Program or
8 C-Step Program are included in the average daily membership of the sending
9 school district.

10
11 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2303(3), regarding definitions under
12 the Public School Funding Act of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

13 (3)(A) "Average daily membership" means the total number of days
14 of school attended plus the total number of days absent by students in ~~grades~~
15 kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) during the first three (3) quarters
16 of each school year divided by the number of school days actually taught in
17 the school district during that period of time rounded up to the nearest
18 hundredth.

19 (B) In those instances in which the average daily
20 membership for fewer than three (3) quarters is specified, the number of days
21 used in the calculation shall be the days in the specified period of time.

22 (C) As applied to this subchapter, students who may be
23 counted for average daily membership are:

24 (i) Students who reside within the boundaries of the
25 school district and who are enrolled in a public school operated by the
26 school district;

27 (ii) Legally transferred students living outside the
28 school district but attending a public school in the school district under a
29 provision of the Arkansas Code; and

30 (iii) Students who are eligible to attend and who
31 reside within the boundaries of a school district and are enrolled in the
32 Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge Program or the Arkansas National
33 Guard Civilian Student Training Program, so long as the students are
34 participants in the program.

35
36 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-13-1601(4), regarding the definitions

1 under the Public Education Reorganization Act, is amended to read as follows:

2 (4)(A) "Average daily membership" means the total number of days
3 attended plus the total number of days absent by students in ~~grades~~
4 kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) during the first three (3) quarters
5 of each school year divided by the number of school days actually taught in
6 the district during that period of time rounded up to the nearest hundredth.

7 (B) Students who may be counted for average daily
8 membership are:

9 (i) Students who reside within the boundaries of the
10 school district and who are enrolled in a public school operated by the
11 district or a private school for special education students, with their
12 attendance resulting from a written tuition agreement approved by the
13 Department of Education;

14 (ii) Legally transferred students living outside the
15 district but attending a public school in the district; and

16 (iii) Students who reside within the boundaries of
17 the school district and who are enrolled in the Arkansas National Guard Youth
18 Challenge Program or the Arkansas National Guard Civilian Student Training
19 Program, so long as the students are participants in the program;

20
21 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Title 19, Chapter 5, Subchapter 12 is amended
22 to add two (2) additional sections to read as follows:

23 19-5-1230. Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge Program
24 Supplemental Fund.

25 (a) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, the
26 Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a fund to be
27 known as the "Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge Program Supplemental
28 Fund".

29 (b)(1) All moneys collected under agreements made between the
30 Administrator of the Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge Program and the
31 sending school district pursuant to § 6-18-230 shall be deposited into the
32 State Treasury to the credit of the fund as special revenues.

33 (2) The fund shall also consist of any other revenues authorized
34 by law.

35 (c) The fund shall be used by the Youth Challenge Program for expenses
36 for:

- (1) Instructor salaries;
- (2) Educational programming;
- (3) Housing; or
- (4) Other expenses related to the Youth Challenge Program.

19-5-1231. Arkansas National Guard C-Step Program Supplemental Fund.

(a) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, the Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a fund to be known as the "Arkansas National Guard C-Step Program Supplemental Fund".

(b)(1) All moneys collected under agreements made between the Administrator of the Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge Program and the sending school district pursuant to § 6-18-230 shall be deposited into the State Treasury to the credit of the fund as special revenues.

(2) The fund shall also consist of any other revenues as may be authorized by law.

(c) The fund shall be used by the C-Step Program for expenses for:

- (1) Instructor salaries;
- (2) Educational programming;
- (3) Housing; or
- (4) Other expenses related to the C-Step Program.

SECTION 5. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the provisions of this act will impact funding beginning with the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2007; that it will be difficult and require substantially more state resources to administer this act if the act does not become effective on the first day of the new fiscal year; and that this act is immediately necessary to ensure that the school districts, the Youth Challenge Program, and the C-Step Program are funded. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on July 1, 2007.

/s/ Wood, et al