

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.

Act 1452 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: S2/21/05 S2/24/05 S3/10/05 S3/15/05 S3/17/05 S3/22/05*

2 85th General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2005

SENATE BILL 391

4
5 By: Senators Laverty, Bryles, *G. Jeffress*

6 By: Representative Ragland

7
8
9 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

10 *AN ACT TO PROVIDE SPECIAL NEEDS FUNDING FOR*
11 *CERTAIN ISOLATED SCHOOLS; TO PROVIDE SPECIAL*
12 *NEEDS FUNDING FOR CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH A*
13 *LOW STUDENT DENSITY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

14
15 **Subtitle**

16 *AN ACT TO PROVIDE SPECIAL NEEDS FUNDING*
17 *FOR CERTAIN ISOLATED SCHOOLS; AND TO*
18 *PROVIDE SPECIAL NEEDS FUNDING FOR*
19 *CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH A LOW*
20 *STUDENT DENSITY.*

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22
23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

24
25 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 20, Subchapter 6 is*
26 *amended to add an additional section to read as follows:*

27 *6-20-604. Additional funding.*

28 *(a)(1) The new requirements under the Standards for Accreditation of*
29 *Arkansas Public Schools adopted by the State Board of Education have*
30 *disproportionately increased the cost of operations for school districts that*
31 *contained isolated schools.*

32 *(2) The General Assembly further finds that school districts*
33 *which contained isolated schools need additional funding to provide an*
34 *adequate education for students attending schools in those districts.*

35 *(b) A school district shall receive special needs funding as set forth*



1 under subsections (c) through (e) of this section if the school district
2 meets the following requirements of subsections (c) through (e) of this
3 section, and:

4 (1) The school district was consolidated, annexed, or received
5 an annexed school under Act 60 of the Second Extraordinary Session of the
6 Eight-Fourth General Assembly;

7 (2) The local board of directors by majority vote determines
8 that the isolated school is so isolated that to combine its operation to one
9 (1) district campus would be impractical or unwise; and

10 (3) The isolated school or district:

11 (A) Filed an affidavit of isolated school status with the
12 State Board of Education during the consolidation or annexation process and
13 the facts of the affidavit are verified by the State Board of Education, or
14 its designee, to meet the requirements of 6-20-601;

15 (B) Filed an affidavit of isolated school status with the
16 State Board of Education after the consolidation or annexation process or the
17 effective date of this section and the facts of the affidavit are verified by
18 the State Board of Education, or its designee, to meet the requirements of 6-
19 20-601; or

20 (C) Filed an affidavit of isolated school status with the
21 State Board of Education after the consolidation or annexation process or the
22 effective date of this section and the facts of the affidavit are verified by
23 the State Board of Education, or its designee, to meet the requirements of 6-
24 20-601 but for the average daily membership requirements of three hundred
25 fifty (350) students or less.

26 (c) A school district meeting the requirements of subsection (b) of
27 this section shall receive an additional amount equal to twenty percent (20%)
28 of the foundation funding received by the school district under § 6-20-
29 2305(a)(2) for the operation of the isolated school areas if the district
30 has:

31 (1) School facilities open for grades kindergarten through
32 twelve (K-12) in two (2) or more isolated schools meeting the requirements of
33 subsection (b) of this section;

34 (2) A three-quarter average daily membership of five hundred
35 (500) or less in the preceding school year; and

36 (3) A density ratio of one and three-tenths (1.3) students or

1 less per square mile.

2 (d) A school district meeting the requirements of subsection (b) of
3 this section shall receive an additional amount equal to fifteen percent
4 (15%) of the foundation funding received by the school district under § 6-20-
5 2305(a)(2) for the operation of the isolated school areas if the district
6 has:

7 (1) School facilities open for grades kindergarten through
8 twelve (K-12) in two (2) or more isolated schools meeting the requirements of
9 subsection (b) of this section and meeting the requirements of § 6-20-601 and
10 both isolated schools were annexed under Act 60 of the Second Extraordinary
11 Session of the Eighty-Fourth General Assembly;

12 (2) A three-quarter average daily membership of five hundred and
13 one (501) to one thousand (1,000) in the preceding school year; and

14 (3) A density ratio of one and four tenths (1.4) students or
15 less per square mile.

16 (e) A school district meeting the requirements of subsection (b) of
17 this section shall receive an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the
18 foundation funding received by the school district under § 6-20-2305(a)(2)
19 based on the three-quarter average daily membership of the isolated school
20 area under § 6-20-2305(a)(2) if the district has school facilities open for
21 grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) in one (1) or more isolated schools
22 meeting the requirements of subsection (b) of this section.

23 (f) A school district shall receive an amount equal to five percent
24 (5%) of the foundation funding received by the school district under § 6-20-
25 2305(a)(2) based on the three-quarter average daily membership of the school
26 district if the district:

27 (1) Has a three-quarter average daily membership of less
28 than five hundred (500) students; and

29 (2) A density ratio of two (2) students or less per
30 square mile.

31 (g) A school district eligible for special needs funding under this
32 section shall continue to be eligible to receive isolated school funding
33 provided under § 6-20-603, but shall only receive funding under one (1) of
34 the categories established under subsections (c) through (f) in this section.

35 (h)(1) A school district eligible to receive isolated funding under §
36 6-20-603 shall continue to receive partial funding under § 6-20-603 even if

1 part of the isolated schools are closed, but a school district shall not
2 receive funding under § 6-20-603 for any isolated schools or parts thereof
3 that have been closed by the local board of directors.

4 (2) If part of the isolated schools in a district are
5 closed, the school district shall receive funding under § 6-20-603 based on
6 the three-quarter average daily membership of the isolated schools or parts
7 thereof that remain open in the district.

8 (i) The provisions of this section are contingent on the appropriation
9 and availability of funding for such purpose.

10
11 SECTION 2. The Department of Education shall conduct a study of
12 isolated schools to determine the most efficient method of providing
13 opportunities for an adequate and substantially equal education for students
14 without excessive transportation time.

15
16 /s/ Laverty

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19 **APPROVED: 3/31/2005**

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