State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

By: Representatives Lowery, C. Cooper
By: Senator Gilmore

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REPEAL THE REQUIREMENT THAT A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN WAIT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME BEFORE WITHDRAWING HIS OR HER CHILD FROM A LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT; TO REPEAL THE REQUIREMENT WITHIN A NOTIFICATION TO HOME SCHOOL THAT A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN INCLUDE HIS OR HER CHILD’S INTENT TO SEEK A DRIVER’S LICENSE IN THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REPEAL THE REQUIREMENT THAT A PARENT OR GUARDIAN WAIT BEFORE WITHDRAWING HIS OR HER CHILD FROM A SCHOOL DISTRICT; AND TO REPEAL THE REQUIREMENT THAT A PARENT OR GUARDIAN STATE HIS OR HER CHILD’S INTENT TO SEEK A DRIVER’S LICENSE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-503(a)(1), concerning intent to home school, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) Parents or legal guardians desiring to provide a home school for their children shall give written notice to the superintendent of their local school district of their intent to provide a home school for their children and agree that the parent or legal guardian is responsible for the education of his or her children during the time the parent or legal guardian
provides a home school for the children:

(A) At the beginning of each school year but no later than August 15; or

(B)(i) Subject to the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, fourteen (14) five (5) calendar school days before withdrawing the children student from the local school district and at the beginning of each school year thereafter.

(ii) The superintendent or the local school district board of directors may waive the fourteen-day waiting period.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-503(a)(3)(F), concerning the requirement that a parent or legal guardian include in a home school notification his or her child's intent to seek a driver’s license in the current school year, is repealed.

(F)(i) A statement of plans to seek a driver’s license during the current school year.

(ii) If a parent or legal guardian includes the information under subdivision (a)(3)(F)(i) of this section, the notice shall include a notarized signature of the parent or legal guardian, and

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-15-503, concerning prerequisites to home schooling, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(f)(1) A student who is enrolled in a public school and who has been temporarily issued items, resources, supplies, materials, or other property belonging to the public school at which he or she is enrolled is eligible for enrollment in a home school after:

(A) The items, resources, supplies, materials, or other property belonging to the public school district at which the student is enrolled have been returned to the public school;

(B) The items, resources, supplies, materials, or other property belonging to the public school district at which the student is enrolled have been paid for; or

(C) The semester has ended.

(2) However, the public school district superintendent or the local school district board of directors may waive the required five-school-day waiting period required under subdivision (a)(1)(B) of this section if
the public school district superintendent or the local school district board of directors is satisfied with the return of temporarily issued items, resources, supplies, materials, or other property belonging to a public school student.

/s/Lowery

APPROVED: 4/8/21