Hall of the House of Representatives

86th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2007
Amendment Form

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Subtitle of House Bill No. 1829

"AN ACT TO ENSURE EFFICIENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS
INVOLVED IN DESEGREGATION LITIGATION."

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Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 1829.

Amend House Bill No. 1829 as originally introduced:

Delete Section 1 of the bill and substitute the following:
    "SECTION 1. Findings.
    It is found and determined by the General Assembly that:
        (1) The school districts in Pulaski County entered into a
settlement agreement and desegregation plans in 1989 with the intent to
fulfill a "promise for achieving unitary school systems which are free from
the vestiges of racial discrimination";
        (2) The State of Arkansas has paid the districts in excess of
approximately seven hundred million dollars ($700,000,000) to assist the
districts in fulfilling their promise to achieve unitary schools free from
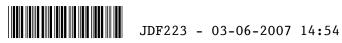the vestiges of racial discrimination;
        (3) There has never been a date certain when the state's
desegregation obligations in the case styled Little Rock School District v.
Pulaski County Special School District No. 1, et al, No. LR-C-82-866, are to
end;
        (4) The Little Rock School District has recently been declared
unitary and has been released from federal court supervision, but the Pulaski
County Special School District and the North Little Rock School District have
yet to attain a ruling that they have fulfilled their promise to their
students to achieve unitary school systems;
        (5) These school districts believe they are unitary or have
achieved a unitary status in some respect, and have stated so publicly in
legislative committee meetings;
        (6) The General Assembly finds that without any ruling from the
federal district court that the districts have achieved unitary status, there
is no assurance that the promise of schools free of the vestiges of racial
discrimination has been fulfilled by these districts;
        (7) The General Assembly finds that, as a part of the state's
overall obligation to provide a general, suitable, and efficient school
system, the students and parents of the Pulaski County districts deserve to
know that they are being educated in a unitary school district, or if their
district is not unitary in some respect the district should be making

adequate progress towards being declared fully unitary;

        (8) The General Assembly seeks to assist the school districts to achieve unitary status and to fulfill their promise to provide school systems which are free from the vestiges of racial discrimination consistent with their desegregation plans; and

        (9) The General Assembly also seeks to provide some assurance to the children in the districts that the promise of unitary schools in the Pulaski County districts will be fulfilled within a reasonable amount of time."

AND

Page 2, line 32, delete "The department" and substitute "Upon the effective date of this section, the department"

AND

Page 3, line 14, delete "2006-2007" and substitute "2007-2008"

AND

Page 3, line 17, after the period add the following language: "However, the agreement does not have to be post unitary and may commence upon all districts having been declared, previously or in the future, unitary in terms of student assignment and student racial balance so long as all other requirements in subdivision (b)(1) of this section are met."

AND

Page 3, line 18, delete "a post-unitary" and substitute "any"

AND

Page 3, line 20, delete the period and substitute "and approval."

AND

Page 3, line 24, delete the period and substitute the following: "or partial unitary status."

AND

Page 3, line 26, after "status" and before "shall" add "or partial unitary status"

AND

Page 3, line 28, after "unitary" and before "by" add "or at least partially unitary"

AND

Page 3, line 34, delete the period and substitute "<u>and approval.</u>"