

Hall of the House of Representatives

86th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2007

Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Bill No. 2734

"AN ACT TO ENSURE A RIGOROUS AND EFFICIENT CURRICULUM FOR ARKANSAS
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS."

Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 2734.

Amend House Bill No. 2734 as originally introduced:

Add Representatives Pickett and Rainey as cosponsors of the bill

AND

Add Senator Argue as a cosponsor of the bill

AND

Delete everything after the enacting clause and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 2 is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-15-214. Advanced placement course counted as core curriculum course taught.

(a) The purpose of this section is to assist small, rural public schools in providing students access to the most rigorous courses available if it is the desire of students to take Advanced Placement courses in the place of regular courses and, in doing so, to meet the requirements of the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts.

(b) The Department of Education acknowledges that the rigor and level of difficulty of Advanced Placement courses exceed the requirements of regular courses. Such rigor and level of difficulty are validated through the required Advanced Placement Audit and Advanced Placement examinations.

(c) The State Board of Education shall consider an Advanced Placement course as being taught for one (1) of the required courses under the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts if:

(1) The public school district has a qualified teacher for the required course;

(2) No students enrolled in the course;

(3) An Advanced Placement course in the same subject area as the required course has students enrolled in the course;

(4) The public school district teaches all other courses



required by the Standards for Accreditation; and

(5)(A) The public school district teaches the required course to any student who enrolls in the public school district after the school year begins.

(B) The public school district may teach the required course to a new student:

(i) In a traditional classroom setting;
(ii) Through distance learning with a qualified teacher, or

(iii) By modifying the Advanced Placement course on an individual level to accommodate the new student.

(d)(1)(A) The public school district shall notify the Department of Education after registration in the spring prior to the beginning of the new school year and immediately after the school year begins if no students enrolled in the required course and the public school district will seek to meet the Standards of Accreditation using the Advanced Placement course.

(B) Upon receiving the public school district notification and after spring registration, the department shall permit the public school district to meet the standards by teaching the Advanced Placement course in place of the required course.

(e) If a new student enrolls in the required course, the public school district shall immediately notify the Department of Education.

(f) The department shall establish procedures to ensure that no student is coerced into taking an Advanced Placement course for the purpose of meeting the Standards of Accreditation.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that a rigorous curriculum is essential for the improvement of public school student achievement in Arkansas; that efficient and consistent enforcement of the Standards of Accreditation are vital to the public education system; that public school districts should have some efficient method of teaching Advanced Placement courses as part of the accredited curriculum; that this act provides the flexibility needed to ensure that a rigorous curriculum is efficiently delivered to all public school students. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

- (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;
- (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or
- (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto."

The Amendment was read _____
By: Representative Hawkins
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Chief Clerk