

Hall of the House of Representatives

95th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2025

Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Bill 1810

TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS
SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND THE ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF; AND TO
DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 1810

Amend House Bill 1810 as originally introduced:

Delete Representative McCullough

AND

Page 1, delete line 26, and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 5-14-132(a)(3), concerning the definition of "public school" as it relates to registered offenders who are prohibited from entering school campuses, are amended to read as follows:

(3) "Public school" means any school in this state that is:

(A) A public school operated by a public school district;

(B) A charter school established under the Public School Funding Act of 2003, § 6-20-2301 et seq.;

(C) A state-funded prekindergarten program operated by a public school or an education service cooperative;

(D) The Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind;

(E) ~~The Arkansas School for the Deaf;~~

~~(F)~~ The Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts;

~~(G)~~(F) An educational facility of the Division of Youth Services or contracting with the Division of Youth Services; or

~~(H)~~(G) An educational facility of the Division of



Developmental Disabilities Services.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-10-121(a)(2), concerning the definition of "public school" as it relates to required tornado and earthquake safety drills, is amended to read as follows:

(2) "Public school" includes the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts, the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind, ~~the Arkansas School for the Blind~~, and juvenile detention centers.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1402(g), concerning the requirement that the Arkansas School for the Blind and Arkansas School for the Deaf submit certain items to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education under the School Performance Report Act, is amended to read as follows:

(g) The Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind ~~and the Arkansas School for the Deaf~~ shall submit to the division:

(1) The results of the appropriately adopted student achievement tests for the students enrolled at these schools; and

(2) A list of other schools' programs to which these schools can be compared.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2913(b)(1), concerning alternate processes of determining the levels of support provided to public schools serving specific populations, is amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) The state board may adopt, by rule, an alternate process of determining the level of support to be provided to public schools or school districts serving specific student populations, including without limitation:

(A) A public school that is designated solely as an alternative learning environment;

(B) An open-enrollment public charter school whose mission and enrollment are primarily focused on students who have dropped out of school or are identified as at risk of dropping out of school;

(C) A conversion public charter school whose mission and enrollment are primarily focused on students who have dropped out of school or are identified as at risk of dropping out of school;

(D) The Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind;

~~(E) The Arkansas School for the Deaf;~~ and

~~(F)~~(E) A public school or system of education that primarily serves adjudicated youth.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-17-1113(a)(1)(P), concerning the entities covered by the School Worker Defense Program, is amended to read as follows:

(P) Each employee of the following who is required to hold an educator license issued by the division:

- (i) A public school district;
- (ii) The Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts; and
- (iii) The Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind;
- ~~(iv) The Arkansas School for the Blind;~~

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-17-1113(a)(1)(R) and (S), concerning the entities covered by the School Worker Defense Program, are amended to read as follows:

- (R) Each teacher's aide and each student teacher:
- (i) In a public school district;
 - (ii) In a public charter school;
 - (iii) In the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts; and
 - (iv) In the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind;
- and

~~(v) In the Arkansas School for the Blind; and~~

- (S) Each member of the dormitory staff of:
- (i) The Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts; and
 - (ii) The Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind; ~~and~~
 - ~~(iii) The Arkansas School for the Blind.~~

SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 6-21-105 is amended to read as follows:

6-21-105. Braille and large print textbooks.

(a) It is declared to be the duty of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind to provide braille and large print textbooks for blind and visually impaired students attending public schools in this state.

(b) The superintendents of school districts shall make application to the Superintendent of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind for textbooks of braille and large print when students in school districts qualify for such books and the requested textbooks are required for other students in the district.

(c)(1) The Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind may use funds from the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind Fund Account for costs associated with providing braille and large print textbooks as authorized under this section.

(2) If funding allows and a need is present, the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind may use funds from the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind Fund Account to purchase electronic textbooks, adaptive technology, and library media.

(d)(1) The State Board of Education shall make reasonable rules regarding moneys appropriated for the purchase of braille and large print textbooks.

(2) The state board may negotiate directly with publishers of braille and large print textbooks for the purchase of braille and large print textbooks.

SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 6-28-104(8)(B), concerning the definition of "public school" under the Arkansas Military Child School Transitions Act of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

(B) "Public school" includes without limitation:

- (i) Alternative learning environments;
- (ii) The Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind;
- ~~(iii) The Arkansas School for the Deaf;~~ and
- ~~(iv)~~(iii) The Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts;

SECTION 9. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 43, Subchapter 1 is amended"

AND

Page 14, line 17, delete "SECTION 2" and substitute "SECTION 10"

AND

Page 15, line 9, delete "SECTION 3" and substitute "SECTION 11"

AND

Page 22, line 2, delete "SECTION 4" and substitute "SECTION 12"

AND

Page 26, delete line 27, and substitute the following:

"SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 19-4-906(a)(3)(032) and (033), concerning passenger motor vehicle limits, are amended to read as follows:

(032) Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind & 22

~~(033) Arkansas School for the Deaf~~ 14

SECTION 14. Arkansas Code § 19-5-304(5) and (6), concerning the School for the Blind Fund Account and School for the Deaf Fund Account within the Education Fund, is amended to read as follows:

(5) Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind Fund Account.

(A) The Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind Fund Account shall be used for the maintenance, operation, and improvement required by the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind in carrying out those powers, functions, and duties as set out in § 6-43-101 et seq. ~~and § 6-43-201 et seq.~~

(B) The Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind Fund Account shall consist of those general revenues as may be provided by law and nonrevenue income derived from services provided by the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind and any other nonfederal grant funds provided by law.

(C) Federal reimbursement funds received on account of vocational education programs conducted by the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind shall not be deposited into the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind Fund Account;

~~(6) School for the Deaf Fund Account.~~

~~(A) The School for the Deaf Fund Account shall be used for the maintenance, operation, and improvement required by the Arkansas School~~

~~for the Deaf in carrying out the powers, functions, and duties as set out in § 6-43-301 et seq. or other duties imposed by law upon the Arkansas School for the Deaf, which were transferred to the Department of Education by §§ 6-11-101, 6-11-102, and 25-6-102.~~

~~(B) The School for the Deaf Fund Account shall consist of those general revenues as may be provided by law and nonrevenue income derived from services provided by the Arkansas School for the Deaf and any other nonfederal grant funds provided by law.~~

~~(C) Federal reimbursement funds received on account of vocational education programs conducted by the Arkansas School for the Deaf shall not be deposited into the School for the Deaf Fund Account;~~

SECTION 15. Arkansas Code § 19-5-402(6) and (7) under the Education Fund, Allocation A, concerning maximum allocations of revenues for upcoming fiscal years, are amended to read as follows:

(6) School for the <u>Deaf and Blind</u> Fund Account	\$8,218,836 <u>\$20,031,769</u>
(7) School for the Deaf Fund Account	\$ 11,812,933

SECTION 16. Arkansas Code § 21-8-402(5)(B)(ix), concerning the definition of "gift" as it relates to the Disclosure Act for Lobbyists and State and Local Officials, is amended to read as follows:

(ix) A monetary or other award presented to an employee of a public school district, the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind, ~~the Arkansas School for the Deaf~~, the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts, a university, a college, a technical college, a technical institute, a comprehensive life-long learning center, or a community college in recognition of the employee's contribution to education;

SECTION 17. Arkansas Code § 21-8-402(7)(B), concerning the definition of "income" or "compensation" as it relates to the Disclosure Act for Lobbyists and State and Local Officials, is amended to read as follows:

(B) The term "compensation" does not include anything of value presented to an employee of a public school district, the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind, ~~the Arkansas School for the Deaf~~, the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts, a university, a college, a technical college, a technical institute, a comprehensive life-long learning

center, or a community college in recognition of the employee's contribution to education;

SECTION 18. Arkansas Code § 21-8-701(d)(10), concerning individuals required to file a statement of financial interest under the Disclosure Act for Lobbyists and State and Local Officials, is amended to read as follows:

(10) Each monetary or other award of more than one hundred dollars (\$100) received by the public servant or candidate in his or her capacity as an employee of a public school district, the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind, ~~the Arkansas School for the Deaf~~, the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts, a university, a college, a technical college, a technical institute, a comprehensive life-long learning center, or a community college in recognition of his or her contribution to education;

SECTION 19. Arkansas Code § 25-11-205 is amended to read as follows:

25-11-205. Board of the Division of State Services for the Deaf and Blind.

(a) There is created a board to be known as the Board of the Division of State Services for the Deaf and Blind, to be constituted as follows:

(1)(A) The board shall be composed of seven (7) members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(B)(i) One (1) member shall be appointed by the Governor after consulting each of the following:

(a) The National Federation of the Blind of Arkansas;

(b) The Arkansas Council of the Blind, Inc.;

(c) The Arkansas Lions Clubs Council of Governors, which shall be a member of a member club of the Lions Clubs International within Multiple District Seven for Arkansas;

(d) The Arkansas Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired; and

(e) The Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind.

(ii) Appointments made by the Governor under subdivision (a)(1)(B)(i) of this section shall be subject to confirmation by the Senate.

(C) The Governor shall appoint two (2) at-large members.

(D) One (1) or more of the members of the board shall be at least fifty-five (55) years of age.

(E) At least four (4) members of the board shall be blind as defined in § 25-11-202.

(2) Any board member whose term has expired shall continue to serve as a member of the board until the member's successor is appointed and qualified;

(3) All board members shall be appointed for terms of four (4) years, and no person may serve more than two (2) consecutive full terms; and

(4) All vacancies which occur for any reason shall be filled by appointment by the Governor, and any interim appointments shall be limited to the unexpired term of the position vacated. Any person appointed to fill a vacancy shall meet the qualifications for appointment held by his or her predecessor on the board.

(b) The President of World Services for the Blind, the Superintendent of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind, one (1) representative appointed by the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired of Arkansas, one (1) representative appointed by the Blinded Veterans Association of Arkansas, and one (1) representative appointed by the Arkansas Association of Blind Business Managers shall serve as ex officio nonvoting members of the board. Additional ex officio nonvoting members may be appointed by the Governor at the request of a majority of the board.

(c) Each member or ex officio member appointed to the board, before entering upon the duties of office, shall take the oath prescribed by the Arkansas Constitution for state officers and shall file the oath in the office of the Secretary of State, who shall thereupon issue to the member a certificate of appointment.

(d) Upon recommendation of a majority of the regular board members, the Governor may remove any member of the board at any time for misconduct, incompetency, neglect of duty, or any other good cause as may be determined by the board.

(e) The board members shall not receive compensation for performance of their duties. However, they may receive expense reimbursement in accordance with § 25-16-901 et seq.

(f) After the members of the board have been duly appointed and are serving, the board shall choose a chair from among the regular members as presiding officer, who shall serve for a term of two (2) years. The board shall also elect from among its regular members a vice chair and a secretary, who shall serve for a term of one (1) year.

(g) The board shall meet at least quarterly at those times and places as it may determine from time to time.

(h)(1) The board shall employ a commissioner, subject to the approval of the Governor, qualified by experience to administer and implement the policies and directives of the board.

(2) The ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner of the Board of the Division of State Services for the Deaf and Blind shall report to the Secretary of the Department of Commerce.

(3) The board may employ or appoint any additional personnel necessary to carry out the functions, duties, and responsibilities entrusted to the Division of State Services for the Deaf and Blind in accordance with the requirements of law and within the limits of available appropriations.

SECTION 20. Arkansas Code § 25-16-904(19), concerning a stipend for membership on the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Blind and the Arkansas School for the Deaf, is amended to read as follows:

(19) Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind ~~and the Arkansas School for the Deaf;~~

SECTION 21. Arkansas Code § 25-17-201(1), concerning an honorary board for the Arkansas School for the Blind and the Arkansas School for the Deaf, is amended to read as follows:

(1) A board of five (5) members constituting the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind ~~and the Arkansas School for the Deaf;~~

SECTION 22. Arkansas Code § 26-51-2503 is amended to read as follows:

26-51-2503. Contribution to the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind ~~and the Arkansas School for the Deaf.~~

(a)(1) The Revenue Division of the Department of Finance and Administration shall include on the Arkansas individual income tax forms,

including those forms on which a husband and wife file separately on the same form, and on all corporate income tax forms, a designation as follows:

“(A) If you are entitled to a refund, check if you wish to designate [] \$1, [] \$5, [] \$10, [] _____ (write in amount) or [] all refund due of your tax refund for the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind ~~and the Arkansas School for the Deaf~~. Your refund will be reduced by this amount.

(B) If you owe an additional amount, check if you wish to contribute an additional [] \$1, [] \$5, [] \$10, [] _____ (write in amount) for the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind ~~and the Arkansas School for the Deaf~~. If you wish to make a contribution to the schools, you must enclose a separate check for the amount of your contribution payable to the Department of Finance and Administration.”

(2) The Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind ~~and the Arkansas School for the Deaf~~ check-off program on state income tax returns shall be effective beginning with the returns for the 2001 income year and each income year thereafter.

(3) The Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration may promulgate all rules and all income tax forms, returns, and schedules necessary to implement this section.

(b) The Department of Finance and Administration shall quarterly certify to the Treasurer of State the amount contributed to the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind ~~and the Arkansas School for the Deaf~~ through this state income tax check-off during the quarter, and the Treasurer of State shall deduct from the Individual Income Tax Withholding Fund the amount so certified.

~~(c) The Treasurer of State shall credit fifty percent (50%) of the amount certified each quarter to the School for the Blind Fund Account and fifty percent (50%) to the School for the Deaf Fund Account.~~

SECTION 23. DO NOT CODIFY. Transfer of the Arkansas School for the”

AND

Page 27, line 11, delete "SECTION 6" and substitute "SECTION 24"

AND

Page 27, delete lines 31 through 36, and substitute the following:

"SECTION 25. EFFECTIVE DATE. Section 22 of this act is effective for tax years beginning on or after January 2, 2025.

SECTION 26. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the merger of the Arkansas School for the Blind and the Arkansas School for the Deaf under this act cannot occur during the middle of a school year; that if this act did go into effect during the middle of a school year, there would be significant disruptions in funding and confusion among administration, staff, students, and parents of students; and that this act is immediately necessary to ensure that the necessary changes to implement the merger of the Arkansas School for the Blind and the Arkansas School for the Deaf are made before the 2025-2026 school year and to guarantee funds for the newly created Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind are correctly appropriated in advance of the upcoming 2026 fiscal year. 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, 2025."

AND

Page 28, delete lines 1 through 14

The Amendment was read _____
By: Representative Joey Carr
TNL/TNL - 03-19-2025 06:39:32
TNL355

Chief Clerk