

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.

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2007-176

1
2 State of Arkansas
3 86th General Assembly
4 Regular Session, 2007

A Bill

SENATE BILL 941

5
6 By: Senators Bryles, Wilkins
7 By: Representative Rainey

8
9 Filed with: Legislative Council
10 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

11
12 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

13 AN ACT TO ENSURE THAT POVERTY FUNDING FOR PUBLIC
14 SCHOOL DISTRICTS CORRESPONDS TO THE LEVEL OF
15 POVERTY IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT; AND FOR OTHER
16 PURPOSES.

17
18 **Subtitle**

19 AN ACT TO ENSURE THAT POVERTY FUNDING
20 FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS CORRESPONDS
21 TO THE LEVEL OF POVERTY IN THE SCHOOL
22 DISTRICT.

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24
25 WHEREAS, poverty funding should be used to support our poorest school
26 districts rather than our largest, and the current structure for national
27 school lunch student categorical funding has the unintended outcome of
28 providing a reward to large school districts while the amount of funding
29 received does not correspond to the level of poverty; and

30
31 WHEREAS, the amount of national school lunch student categorical
32 funding received by a school district has a .83 correlation with a school
33 district's average daily membership, which is very significant, while the
34 amount of funding received by a school district has only a .23 correlation
35 with a school district's percentage of free and reduced-price lunch students;
36 and



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2 WHEREAS, the National Center for Education Statistics indicates, as
3 reported by the Education Trust, that more classes in high-poverty, high-
4 minority schools are taught by out-of-field teachers and that poor and
5 minority students get more inexperienced teachers; and
6

7 WHEREAS, the Education Trust reports that of persons who graduate
8 college by twenty-four (24) years of age, those from high-income families
9 graduate from college at the rate of 75%, while those from low-income
10 families graduate at the rate of 9%; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the Education Trust reports that Arkansas gets the fourth
13 least amount of federal funding per poverty student. The Title I allocation
14 per poor child in Arkansas is \$1,009 compared to Wyoming with \$2,957 and
15 Vermont with \$2,794; and
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17 WHEREAS, quality leadership is a factor in all schools but more funding
18 would permit school districts with concentrated poverty to be able to compete
19 to attract more highly qualified superintendents, principals and teachers,
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21 NOW THEREFORE,

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2303, concerning definitions for
25 public school funding, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as
26 follows:

27 (23)(A) "Poverty index" means an index for each school district
28 with seventy percent (70%) or greater national school lunch students, as
29 defined in this subsection (a), derived from three components:

30 (i) The school district's percentage of national
31 school lunch students;

32 (ii) The number represented in the United States
33 Census Bureau School District Estimates for 2004 data field for relevant age
34 group of children who are five (5) to seventeen (17) years of age in families
35 in poverty; and

36 (iii) The state wealth index for school districts.

1 (B) The poverty index shall be calculated by the following
2 method:

3 (i) Multiplying the school district's percentage of
4 national school lunch students by one hundred (100); then multiplied by

5 (ii) The number represented by subdivision
6 (a)(23)(A)(ii) of this section; and multiplied by

7 (iii) The school district's state wealth index.

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9 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(1), concerning categorical
10 funding for public schools, is amended to read as follows:

11 (b)(1) In addition to state foundation funding aid, each school
12 district shall receive funding for additional education categories as
13 provided in subdivisions ~~(b)(2)-(6)~~(b)(2)-(7) of this section.

14
15 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b), concerning categorical
16 funding for public schools, is amended to add an additional subdivision to
17 read as follows:

18 (7) For school years 2007-2008 and 2008-2009, concentrated poverty
19 funding shall be provided to each public school district with at least
20 seventy percent (70%) national school lunch students in the following amount:

21 (i) Ten dollars (\$10.00); multiplied by

22 (ii) The school district's poverty index; and
23 multiplied by

24 (iii) The previous school year's average daily
25 membership.

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36 Filed: 04/24/2007 By: JD/sik