

2 State of Arkansas
3 94th General Assembly
4 Regular Session, 2023

A Bill

SENATE BILL 550

5
6 By: Senator Irvin

7 Filed with: Senate Committee on Education
8 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

9 For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO CREATE THE K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION
11 FUNDING LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES.

13 Subtitle

14 TO CREATE THE K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOL
15 EDUCATION FUNDING LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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22 SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. K-12 Public School
23 Education Funding Legislative Task Force – Creation – Membership – Duties.

24 (a) There is created the K-12 Public School Education Funding
25 Legislative Task Force.

26 (b)(1) The task force shall consist of the following members of the
27 General Assembly:

28 (A) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate or his or her
29 designee who is a member of the Senate;

30 (B) Five (5) members of the Senate appointed by the
31 President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

32 (C) The Senate Majority Leader or his or her designee who
33 is a member of the Senate;

34 (D) The Senate Minority Leader or his or her designee who
35 is a member of the Senate;

1 (E) The Speaker of the House of Representatives or his or
2 her designee who is a member of the House of Representatives;

3 (F) Five (5) members of the House of Representatives
4 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

5 (G) The House Majority Leader or his or her designee who
6 is a member of the House of Representatives; and

7 (H) The House Minority Leader or his or her designee who
8 is a member of the House of Representatives.

9 (2) If a vacancy occurs on the task force, the vacancy shall be
10 filled by the same process as the original appointment.

11 (3) The members of the task force shall be paid per diem and
12 mileage as authorized by law for attendance at meetings of interim committees
13 of the General Assembly.

14 (c)(1) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall call the
15 first meeting of the task force within thirty (30) days of sine die
16 adjournment of the 2023 Regular Session.

17 (2) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate
18 a member of the task force to serve as chair of the first meeting of the task
19 force.

20 (3) At the first meeting of the task force, the members of the
21 task force shall elect from its membership a chair or co-chairs and other
22 officers as needed for the transaction of its business.

23 (4)(A) The task force shall conduct its meetings in Pulaski
24 County at the State Capitol or another site with teleconferencing
25 capabilities.

26 (B) Meetings of the task force shall be held at least one
27 (1) time every two (2) months but may occur more often at the call of the
28 chair of the task force.

29 (5) The task force shall establish rules and procedures for
30 conducting its business.

31 (6)(A) A majority of the members of the task force shall
32 constitute a quorum for transacting business of the task force.

33 (B) An affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum present
34 shall be required for the passage of a motion or other task force action.

35 (7) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff for
36 the task force.

1 (d)(1) The purposes of the task force are to:

2 (A) Examine and identify areas of potential reform within
3 the education funding laws of the State of Arkansas by:

4 (i) Considering the effects of changing education
5 funding from a prior-year average daily membership funding model to a
6 current-year average daily membership funding model;

7 (ii) Studying methodologies for addressing small
8 school inequities caused by per-pupil funding for a model five-hundred-
9 student school district; and

10 (iii) Determining the best methods for funding
11 education based on research of best practices and current spending practices
12 that lead to high levels of student performance; and

13 (B) Recommend legislation to the General Assembly for
14 consideration during the 2025 regular session to address the issues described
15 in subdivision (d)(1)(A) of this section.

16 (2) If the task force determines it is necessary, it may
17 contract with one (1) or more outside consultants to assist the task force
18 with its study.

19 (3)(A) On or before December 1, 2023, the task force shall file
20 with the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the
21 President Pro Tempore of the Senate a written preliminary report of the task
22 force's activities, findings, and recommendations.

23 (B) The task force shall file with the Governor, the
24 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the
25 Senate a final written report on or before September 1, 2024.

26 (e) The task force shall expire on December 31, 2024.

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29 Referred requested by the Arkansas Senate

30 Prepared by: JLL/SJA