

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 2009-183

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: H3/19/09

87th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE BILL 2144

By: Representative Cook

Filed with: House Interim Committee on Education
pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT AMENDING THE PREREQUISITES FOR HOME
SCHOOLING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AMENDING THE PREREQUISITES FOR HOME
SCHOOLING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-503(a), concerning prerequisites for home schooling, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) Parents or guardians desiring to provide a home school for their children must give written notice to the superintendent of their local school district of their intent to provide a home school for their children, ~~and~~ sign a waiver acknowledging that the State of Arkansas is not liable for the education of their children during the time that the parents choose to home school, and, beginning July 1, 2010, provide a copy of proof of the most recent state-mandated achievement test:

(A) ~~At the beginning~~ No later than August 15 immediately preceding the beginning of each the school year ~~but no later than August 15;~~
or

(B) By ~~December 15~~ December 1 for parents who decide to start home schooling at the beginning of the spring semester; ~~or~~

~~(C) Subject to the provisions of subsection (d) of this~~



1 ~~section, fourteen (14) calendar days prior to withdrawing the children from~~
2 ~~the local school district and at the beginning of each school year~~
3 ~~thereafter. The superintendent or the local school board of directors may~~
4 ~~waive the fourteen day waiting period.~~

5 (2)(A) A Parent or guardian desiring to start home schooling on
6 a date other than the beginning of a school semester shall file an
7 application with his or her local school district.

8 (B) The local school district shall form a committee to
9 consider an application under this subdivision (a)(2) consisting of:

10 (i) The counselor of the school the child is
11 presently attending or would attend;

12 (ii) The principal or assistant principal of the
13 school the child is presently attending or would attend; and

14 (iii) One (1) of the child's current teachers.

15 (C)(i) The committee shall approve or disapprove the
16 application to start home schooling on a date other than the beginning of a
17 school semester of this section as soon as possible, but not later than
18 fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of the application.

19 (ii) The committee shall not consider whether to
20 approve or disapprove an application if:

21 (a) A delinquency, family in need of services,
22 or dependency-neglect action has been commenced concerning the child within
23 three (3) months of the date of the application;

24 (b) The child is currently under disciplinary
25 action for violation of any written school policy, including without
26 limitation excessive unexcused absences; or

27 (c) The child is truant at the time of the
28 application.

29 (iii) The committee shall notify the child's parents
30 or guardians of the date, time, and location of the committee's consideration
31 of the application and inform the parents or guardians that they may attend.

32 (iv) The committee shall consider all information
33 provided by the parent of the child in making its determination.

34 (D) A decision of the committee may be appealed through
35 the local school district grievance policy and procedures under the student
36 handbook.

1 (E) The Department of Education shall develop a form to be
2 used for applications under this subdivision (a)(2).

3 ~~(2)~~(3) Within thirty (30) calendar days of establishing
4 residency within the school district, parents or guardians moving into the
5 school district during the school year must give written notice to the
6 superintendent of their local school district of their intent to provide a
7 home school for their children and sign a waiver acknowledging that the State
8 of Arkansas is not liable for the education of their children during the time
9 that the parents choose to home school.

10 ~~(3)~~(4) The notice must include:

11 (A) The name, date of birth, grade level, and name and
12 address of the school last attended, if any, of each student involved;

13 (B) The location of the home school;

14 (C) The basic core curriculum to be offered;

15 (D) The proposed schedule of instruction; and

16 (E) The qualifications of the parent-teacher.

17 ~~(4)~~(5) Parents or guardians shall deliver written notice in
18 person to the superintendent of their local school district the first time
19 such notice is given.

20
21 /s/ Cook
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36 *Filed Date: 08/04/2009 By: MBM|VJF*