

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2015-100

2 State of Arkansas
3 90th General Assembly
4 Regular Session, 2015

As Engrossed: S3/17/15

A Bill

SENATE BILL 951

5
6 By: Senator Elliott

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 AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
11 CONCERNING A SYSTEM-WIDE ASSESSMENT OF UNDERSERVED
12 GEOGRAPHIC AREAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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15 **Subtitle**

16 TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
17 CONCERNING A SYSTEM-WIDE ASSESSMENT OF
18 UNDERSERVED GEOGRAPHIC AREAS.

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

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23 *SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY.*

24 (a)(1) A systems assessment template for underserved areas and any
25 tools related to the template shall be developed or recommended for the
26 purpose of assessing geographic-specific needs of underserved areas around
27 the state.

28 (2) The systems assessment template for underserved areas, and
29 any tools related to the template, shall be developed or recommended by a
30 workgroup that consists of:

31 (A) Two (2) members of the Senate appointed by the
32 President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

33 (B) Two (2) members of the House of Representatives
34 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

35 (C) Employees of the Bureau of Legislative Research; and

1 (D) Members of the community with expertise in leadership,
2 economic development, geography, and other fields relevant to the development
3 of a systems assessment template for underserved areas.

4 (3) No later than October 15, 2016, the systems assessment
5 template for underserved areas and any tools related to the template shall be
6 developed or recommended by the workgroup to the Senate Committee on
7 Education and the House Committee on Education.

8 (b) The purpose of the systems assessment template for underserved
9 areas and any tools related to the template to:

10 (1) Assess, inform, and guide policy makers;

11 (2)(A) Be used by the Department of Education, the State Board
12 of Education, and the Commissioner of Education to inform decision making
13 concerning school districts and public schools that are in danger of or
14 qualify as academic distress, fiscal distress, or facilities distress school
15 districts or public schools.

16 (B) The state board and the commissioner are encouraged to
17 use the systems assessment template for underserved areas and any tools
18 related to the template before a school district or public school is placed
19 in academic distress, fiscal distress, or facilities distress status.

20 (C) The results of a systems assessment template for
21 underserved areas, and any tools related to the template, that is used by the
22 state board and the commissioner shall be shared with the school district or
23 public school by a method determined to have maximum communication impact by
24 the state board and the commissioner.

25 (D) A school district shall not be consolidated, annexed,
26 reconstituted, or taken over by the state board before the state board and
27 the commissioner perform a systems assessment template for underserved areas,
28 and any tools related to the template;

29 (3) Be used by other state agencies when appropriate to inform
30 decision making; and

31 (4) Be used voluntarily by communities with fidelity as a self-
32 assessment exercise.

33 (c) The systems assessment template for underserved areas and any
34 tools related to the template shall provide information about underserved
35 areas related to the following without limitation:

36 (1) Quality of life, including:

- 1 (A) Availability of professionals in the community;
- 2 (B) Housing;
- 3 (C) Safety;
- 4 (D) Entertainment opportunities;
- 5 (E) Social and recreational opportunities, both indoor and
- 6 outdoor;
- 7 (F) Healthy food choices;
- 8 (G) Shopping;
- 9 (H) Civic participation, expansive and inclusive;
- 10 (I) Social interactions, expansive and inclusive;
- 11 (J) Transportation options; and
- 12 (K) Opportunities for children to have a healthy start
- 13 from early childhood through prekindergarten;
- 14 (2) Economic development and economic opportunity, including:
- 15 (A) Plans and promotion of economic development
- 16 activities, such as:
- 17 (i) Entrepreneurship;
- 18 (ii) Place-based opportunities;
- 19 (iii) Place-based challenges;
- 20 (iv) Creative economy opportunities;
- 21 (v) Private sector efforts;
- 22 (vi) Public sector efforts; and
- 23 (vii) Roles of state and local public agencies; and
- 24 (B) Infrastructure challenges and strengths;
- 25 (3) Capacity building, including:
- 26 (A) Inclusive leadership building;
- 27 (B) Inclusive leadership sharing; and
- 28 (C) Talent and aspiration audit; and
- 29 (4) Demographic information of a community, including:
- 30 (A) Racial or ethnic groups;
- 31 (B) Genders;
- 32 (C) Socioeconomic statuses;
- 33 (D) Ages;
- 34 (E) Religions; and
- 35 (F) Other relevant information.
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/s/Elliott

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Referred by the Arkansas Senate

Prepared by: VJF