

State of Arkansas

76th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1987

HOUSE BILL 1276

By: Representatives Hatfield, Hinshaw, Thicksten,
Purdom, Townsend, Schexnayder, C. Brown, Willems

"AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS HISTORY TASK FORCE; TO REQUIRE EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL TO OFFER PRESCRIBED COURSES IN ARKANSAS HISTORY; TO PRESCRIBE CERTAIN EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION AS ELEMENTARY TEACHERS AND SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHERS; TO REQUIRE EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT TO ANNUALLY CERTIFY ITS COMPLIANCE WITH THIS ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. (A) The Director of the Department of Education, in conjunction with the Department of Arkansas Heritage, shall appoint a task force to be known as the "Arkansas History Task Force". The Department of Education shall consult with and be advised by the task force on the preparation and final production of course content guides for courses in Arkansas history to be offered in public schools. The primary purpose of the task force shall be to ensure that the courses in Arkansas history represent the most accurate historical account of the contributions and achievements of all segments of our population.

(B) The Arkansas History Task Force shall be composed of from fifteen (15) to twenty (20) members knowledgeable in Arkansas history. The task force shall consist of members from most major ethnic groups within the State. The ethnic composition of the task force shall be substantially the same as the actual ethnic composition of the State.

(C) Members of the task force shall serve without pay but shall be entitled to the same mileage and per diem as is provided by law for State employees.

(D) The Arkansas History Task Force shall terminate upon the completion of its duties.

SECTION 2. Beginning the 1989-90 school year, a unit of Arkansas history shall be offered as a social studies subject at each elementary grade level in every public school in the State.

SECTION 3. Beginning with the 1989-90 school year, one full year or as a minimum one full semester of Arkansas history or one full year or as a minimum one full semester of a course in American history taught from the Arkansas perspective shall be taken and successfully completed by every high school student at some time between grades 7 and 12.

SECTION 4. On and after January 1, 1990, no person shall be certified as a social studies teacher or as an elementary school teacher unless such person has successfully completed a college course in Arkansas history.

SECTION 5. The State Department of Education with the cooperation and assistance of the Department of Arkansas Heritage shall prepare and distribute to the various school districts in the State course content guides for courses in Arkansas history to be offered in the public schools.

SECTION 6. Each public school building principal shall certify annually in their annual report to the State Department of Education that the intent and purpose of this law is being complied with in their respective schools.

SECTION 7. Subsection (b) of Section 3 of Act 614 of 1923 as amended, the same being Arkansas Statutes 80-1614(b), and all other laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

