

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO GRANT SCHOOL
DISTRICTS MEETING CERTAIN PRESCRIBED QUALIFICATIONS AN
EXTENSION OF TIME FOR MEETING THE MINIMUM SCHOOL STANDARDS.

WHEREAS, some school districts in the State will be unable to meet all
minimum school standards within the time prescribed; and

WHEREAS, some of such districts have shown a willingness to provide even
greater local effort than expected of them by increasing local school millages
but still will not have sufficient funds to meet all the minimum school stan-
dards within the time prescribed, due to the reduction of State aid; and

WHEREAS, certain districts have been consolidated with or annexed to
other districts in recent years in an attempt to assure quality education to
students in the area and some of those districts, despite having made all
reasonable efforts to comply with the minimum standards, will be unable to do
so within the time now prescribed; and

WHEREAS, it appears to be only fair that those districts which have shown
a sincere willingness and desire and have demonstrated unusual local effort to
comply with the standards be given a reasonable extension of time in which to
comply with the minimum school standards; and

WHEREAS, some of the minimum school standards are not necessarily
designed to improve the basic education of students in the public schools but
to rather provide services to students which are not primarily educational,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SEVENTY-SIXTH GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

SECTION 1. Any school district in the State which consists of the area
of three or more former districts, which has levied an ad valorem tax of at
least 22 mills on taxable real property in the district, and which has other-
wise exerted all reasonable efforts to comply with the minimum school stan-
dards within the time prescribed, but will be unable to do so primarily

because of the shortfall of State revenues and the resulting reduction of State aid to the district, is hereby authorized to apply to the State Department of Education for a reasonable extension of time not to exceed two school years in which to meet two of the minimum school standards.

SECTION 2. Any school district which meets the qualifications prescribed herein for an extension of time for meeting the school standards shall make application to the State Department of Education for such extension and shall specify the particular minimum standards, not to exceed two, for which the district wishes an extension of time for compliance.

SECTION 3. The General Assembly hereby requests that the State Department of Education grant any such extension applied for by a district if it determines that the applying district meets the requirements prescribed in Section 1 hereof.

SECTION 4. Upon adoption of this Resolution, a copy hereof shall be transmitted to the Director of the State Department of Education.