

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

1657

By: Representative George

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3 OF ACT 11 OF 1989, TO DECLARE AN
EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Act 11 of 1989 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 3. Beginning with the 1989-90 school year, the following programs shall be in effect in the public schools of Arkansas:

(1) Every public school in Arkansas shall develop a local plan for diagnosis of its students' academic deficiencies. Based on the diagnosis of deficiencies, counseling shall be provided to encourage students to enroll in secondary school courses that would result in the improvement of academic skills in mathematics, English, and reading. Local plans shall provide for parental involvement in student counseling and placement for students.

(2) Every eleventh-grade student enrolled in a public school of Arkansas who chooses to do so may take a placement test which has been approved by the State Board of Education, during a time frame set by the State Board of Education. Students who score less than the statewide minimum scores established by the State Board of Higher Education for mathematics, English, and reading, shall receive counseling and strong encouragement to enroll during their senior year in regular school instructional courses designated by local school officials to assist in the improvement of scores in the areas of deficiency.

(3) During a time frame to be established by the State Board of Education, every twelfth-grade student enrolled in a public school of Arkansas who chooses to do so may take a placement test which has been approved by the State Board of Education and the State Board of Higher Education. Students

who have graduated from high school and who plan to enroll in post-secondary programs at a college, university, or post-secondary vocational school in Arkansas may enroll in a state approved intensive noncredit preparatory program during the summer following graduation. The opportunity to participate in a noncredit preparatory program afforded to students by this act shall not be interpreted as mandating the Department of Education to operate or fund noncredit preparatory programs at a cost in excess of the funds appropriated and funded in the Public School Fund for this purpose. Students who choose to do so may take a placement test which has been approved by the State Board of Education and the State Board of Higher Education upon completion of their summer school studies.

(4) The Department of Education may operate the noncredit preparatory programs or may contract with local school districts or institutions of higher education to operate such programs. The Department of Education shall designate the locations at which such programs shall be offered. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and regulations for the implementation of this program, including minimum and maximum class sizes for such programs."

SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 3. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly that the development of an intensive post-secondary preparatory program for students in public schools of this state would reduce costs for remediation occurring during the freshman year of enrollment in state colleges, universities or post-secondary vocational schools, and that the development of this program in the Arkansas Department of education which would conserve state revenue is in the best interests of all citizens of this state. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

