

State of Arkansas
77th General Assembly
Regular Session, 1989
By: Representative Gibson

HOUSE BILL 1894

"AN ACT TO PROVIDE A PROCEDURE WHEREBY TWO OR MORE SCHOOL DISTRICTS MAY AGREE TO FORM A MODEL RURAL SCHOOL CONSORTIUM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. It is the purpose and intent of this act to provide a procedure by which two (2) or more contiguous school districts located within this State may, by agreement, reflected by a majority vote of the respective boards of the participating school districts, form a model rural school consortium. It is anticipated that this model rural school consortium would be established to exemplify the best practices available in rural education. It would further be the purpose of these consortiums to serve as a training and development site for both students and teachers within the cooperating school districts. The model rural school consortiums created pursuant to the provisions of this act must be organized in ways that are fundamentally different from the ways schools are now organized.

SECTION 2. Pursuant to the provisions of this act, two (2) or more contiguous school districts, may by a majority vote of their respective boards, agree to create a model rural school consortium for the purposes set forth above. Such consortiums, if created, will be governed by a separate board, the identity of the membership of which shall be agreed upon by the participating districts, but shall include as the president of the board a member of the state board of education.

SECTION 3. The board governing the model rural school consortium shall determine the physical or territorial boundaries of the model rural school consortium. Any student located within the territorial boundaries of the

model rural school consortium shall be eligible to attend the model rural school consortium pursuant to any stipulations or conditions set forth by the board of the model rural school consortium.

SECTION 4. Any model rural school consortium board created pursuant to this act shall have all authority, powers, duties, and obligations heretofore conferred by law upon any of the several school boards of this State, including but not limited to, the power to propose millages, upon the same terms and conditions that school boards may now propose millages. Only the qualified electors within the boundaries of the model rural school consortium may vote upon any proposed millage. Any millages approved of by the qualified electors within the territorial boundaries of the model rural school consortium may be used only for the purposes for which millages have heretofore been authorized.

SECTION 5. Any state minimum foundation aid to which would heretofore be given to the participating school district shall be paid to the model rural school consortium for each child within that district's boundaries who attends school at the model rural school consortium. Any local monies attributable to that child shall remain with the original school district.

SECTION 6. The State of Arkansas, for the first five (5) years of the model rural school consortium's existence, shall pay the difference between the actual cost of the operation of the model rural school consortium and the amount paid by the redelegation of the state's contribution per student to the school districts.

SECTION 7. The model rural school consortium board shall have the authority to petition the State Department of Education or the State Board of Education for waivers from present school standards as any restructured school presently has the authority to do.

SECTION 8. The State Board of Education shall adopt and publish criteria setting forth the application process to be followed by any educational consortium and said Board shall have the authority to limit the number of applicants. The State Board of Education shall also determine which

applications are accepted in accordance with its published criteria.

SECTION 9. 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 10. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.