

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

H.C.R.

1034

By: Representative Mahony

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE ARKANSAS BOARD OF CORRECTION TO INCREASE THE GRADE LEVEL FOR MANDATORY SCHOOLING AND TO STUDY AND IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO AWARD EXTRA-MERITORIOUS GOOD TIME FOR PARTICIPANTS IN LITERACY PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, in the report of the Governor's Commission on Adult Literacy, Summer 1988, the Commission recommended that target populations be screened and assessed for educational needs to evaluate literacy needs of the state and to increase participation in literacy programs; and

WHEREAS, one such target population is state prison inmates; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Correction serves as the Board of Directors of the school district operated by the Department of Correction which administers the education program available to state prison inmates; and

WHEREAS, the Board has a current policy that mandates school participation for inmates evaluated below the fourth grade level; and

WHEREAS, the average functional level of an inmate entering the Department of Correction is now the sixth grade level; and

WHEREAS, incentives should be offered to motivate prison inmates to increase their literacy skills on all functional levels, not just those fortunate enough to be pursuing GEDs or college level courses while incarcerated in the department; and

WHEREAS, an increase in the minimum grade level for mandatory school participation would increase the adult population being served for identified

literacy deficient in this state; and

WHEREAS, the study and implementation of a program which would award extra-meritorious good time for inmates who achieve standard goals above their educational grade level upon entry in the department would also increase the number of adult participants in literacy programs in this state; and

WHEREAS, consideration and implementation of these changes in the school program offered by the Department of Correction would assist in the reduction of illiteracy in this state;

NOW THEREFORE,

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

That the Arkansas Board of Correction is urged to increase the grade level for mandatory schooling of prison inmates and to study and possibly implement a program which awards extra-meritorious good time for achievement of set goals enumerated by the board by participants in adult literacy programs while incarcerated in the department.