

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

H.C.R.

1055

By: Joint Budget Committee

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

PROVIDING FOR THE ORDERLY CONSIDERATION BY THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PROPOSED PULASKI COUNTY SCHOOL
DESEGREGATION CASE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.

WHEREAS, the Little Rock School District, the North Little Rock School District, the Pulaski County School District, and the State Department of Education have developed a "Pulaski County School Desegregation Case Settlement Agreement, March 1989", which has been endorsed and approved by the various parties in such case; and

WHEREAS, the last of said parties to endorse their approval of such settlement agreement was on Monday, March 6, 1989, four days prior to the constitutional date for the sine die adjournment of the Seventy-Seventh General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the proposed settlement agreement provides for the approval by all affected parties, including the General Assembly, before such proposed settlement agreement is submitted to the federal court for its consideration; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly was not invited to participate, or to be represented, at the negotiations of the various parties which led to the finalization of the proposed settlement agreement of said case; and

WHEREAS, it is now incumbent on the General Assembly to review the proposed settlement agreement to become acquainted with the terms of the proposed agreement, and the factors considered in arriving at said agreement, before it may act on the agreement or to seek the modification of any of the provisions thereof;

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:

(1) That the parties to the Pulaski County School Desegregation Case who negotiated the terms of the proposed settlement agreement have made a concerted effort to reach a settlement of the issues in said case, and the proposed settlement agreement is now before the General Assembly for its consideration;

(2) That in view of the fact that the General Assembly was not represented at the negotiations leading to said settlement and was not represented thereat by representatives of its own choosing, it is incumbent upon the General Assembly to gain access to information, options considered, and all aspects of the factors considered in developing the proposed terms of such settlement agreement before the General Assembly may be in a posture to act for and on behalf of the State of Arkansas in ratification of said agreement; and

(3) That the General Assembly should move with reasonable dispatch to investigate and become informed on all aspects of the proposed settlement agreement, including the holding of hearings thereon in order that the people of this State may be informed and the members of the General Assembly may be informed on all aspects and obligations of such agreement to enable the General Assembly to act thereon;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the leaders of the Senate and House are urged to submit to the membership of both Houses proposed recommendations for the structuring of an appropriate committee, or other designated legislative officials, including the designation of staff and professional services that may be needed in connection therewith, to enable both Houses to proceed with cooperative dispatch to review all aspects of the proposed Pulaski County School Desegregation Case settlement agreement in order that the General Assembly may, at the earliest possible date, take action thereon.