

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

Third Extraordinary Session, 1989

CALL ITEM

1106

By: Representatives Wilson, Mahony and Dietz

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO IMPOSE A LEVEL OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AS A PREREQUISITE FOR PARTICIPATION IN NONACADEMIC ACTIVITY IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THIS STATE; TO PHASE IN THE STANDARD OVER A THREE-YEAR PERIOD; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. (a) (1) Beginning with the 1990 school year, a student enrolled in a school district in this state shall be suspended from participation in any nonacademic activity sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the grade reporting period after a grade reporting period in which the student's grade point average in academic courses was lower than the equivalent of a 1.3 on a 4.0 grading scale.

(2) Beginning with the 1991 school year, a student enrolled in a school district in this state shall be suspended from participation in any nonacademic activity sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the grade reporting period after a grade reporting period in which the student's grade point average in academic courses was lower than the equivalent of a 1.6 on a 4.0 grading scale.

(3) Beginning with the 1992 school year and each year thereafter, a student enrolled in a school district in this state shall be suspended from participation in any nonacademic activity sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the grade reporting period after a grade reporting period in which the student's grade point average in academic courses was lower than the equivalent of a 2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale.

(b) A handicapped student receiving special education or related services shall be suspended from participation in any nonacademic activity sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the grade reporting period after a grade reporting period in which the student fails to

successfully complete his individual education plan.

(c) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Academic course" means a course which is identified in the education standards as one of the required course offerings or a course which is a definable course for which classtime is scheduled; which is credited to meet minimum requirements for graduation; which is taught by a teacher required to have state certification in the course, endorsement or approval; and which has a course content guide approved by the Arkansas Department of Education.

(2) "Grade reporting period" shall occur at least once each nine week quarter of the school year.

(d) (1) Suspension of a student of a minority race may be removed by the school board in a school district in which imposition of the suspension has an adverse impact on a desegregation plan as ordered by a court.

(2) A student whose suspension is removed under this subsection shall be provided with a remediation program in academic courses which shall be implemented during the grade reporting period after the grade reporting period in which the student's grade point average was lower than that required by this Act.

(e) The student may return to participation in any nonacademic activity if the student achieves a grade point average as required by this Act in academic courses during any following grade reporting period. A handicapped student may return to participation in any nonacademic activity if the student successfully completes his individual education plan during any following grade reporting period.

(f) The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary for proper record keeping concerning adverse impact of this provision on desegregation plans and sufficient reporting to the Arkansas Department of Education by the school districts to assure compliance with the provisions of this act. The State Board of Education shall develop a uniform statewide grading scale and uniform grade reporting periods.

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.