

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **78th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1991**
4 **By: Representative J.J. Roberts**

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 6, CHAPTER 18, SUBCHAPTERS 2 AND 5
9 OF THE ARKANSAS CODE OF 1987 TO REQUIRE THE ESTABLISHMENT
10 OF ADVISORY COUNCILS TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF
11 DISCIPLINE AND ATTENDANCE POLICIES; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES."

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

16 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code §6-18-209 is hereby amended to read as
17 follows:

18 "6-18-209. Adoption of student attendance policies - Effect of
19 excessive absences.

20 (a) The board of directors of each school district in this state shall
21 adopt student attendance policies.

22 (b) Each school district shall, as a part of its six-year educational
23 plan, develop strategies for promoting maximum student attendance including,
24 but not limited to, the use of alternative classrooms when the discipline or
25 attendance offense includes those listed in (2)(A), (B) or (C) of subsection
26 (b) of A.C.A. §6-18-502 and in-school suspensions in lieu of suspension from
27 school.

28 (c) A student attendance policy may include excessive unexcused
29 absences as a mandatory basis for denial of promotion or graduation.

30 (d) Beginning with the 1991-92 school year, each school district shall
31 establish a fourteen (14) member advisory council on student attendance and
32 discipline comprised of seven (7) parents of students enrolled in the district
33 and seven (7) teachers employed by the district, appointed by the
34 superintendent from nominations received from the parent-teacher organization
35 of the schools within the district to assist in the development or revision of

1 school district student attendance policies. The advisory council shall
2 reflect the racial composition of the student body as closely as practicable.
3 The advisory council shall elect one of its members to serve as chairman.
4 The superintendent of the school district shall serve as secretary for the
5 council. The term for members on the advisory council shall be four (4) years
6 with the initial members determining their terms by lot so that no more than
7 four (4) terms expire during any year."

8
9 SECTION 2. Subsection (b) of Arkansas Code §6-18-502 is hereby amended
10 to read as follows:

11

12 "(b) Such guidelines shall include, but not be limited to, the
13 following requirements:

14 (1) Parents, students, and school district personnel, including
15 teachers, shall be involved in the development of school district student
16 discipline policies. Beginning with the 1991-92 school year, each school
17 district shall establish a fourteen (14) member advisory council on student
18 attendance and discipline comprised of seven (7) parents of students enrolled
19 in the district and seven (7) teachers employed by the district, appointed by
20 the superintendent from nominations received from the parent-teacher
21 organization of the schools within the district to assist in the development
22 or revision of school district student discipline policies. The advisory
23 council shall reflect the racial composition of the student body as closely as
24 practicable. The advisory council shall elect one of its members to serve as
25 chairman. The superintendent of the school district shall serve as secretary
26 for the council. The term for members on the advisory council shall be four
27 (4) years with the initial members determining their terms by lot so that no
28 more than four (4) terms expire during any year.

29 (2) Student discipline policies shall include, but not be limited
30 to, the following offenses:

31 (A) Willfully and intentionally assaulting or threatening
32 to assault or abuse any teacher, principal, superintendent, or other employee
33 of a school system;

34 (B) Possession by students of any firearm or other weapon
35 prohibited upon the school campus by policies adopted by the school board;

1 (C) Using, offering for sale, or selling beer, alcoholic
2 beverages, or other illicit drugs by students on school property;

3 (D) Possession by a student of any paging device, beeper,
4 or similar electronic communication device on the school campus; however, the
5 policy may provide an exemption for possession of such a device by a student
6 who is required to use such a device for health or other compelling reasons;
7 and

8 (E) Willfully or intentionally damaging, destroying, or
9 stealing of school property by students."

10

11 SECTION 3. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
12 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
13 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

14

15 SECTION 4. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
16 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
17 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
18 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
19 act are declared to be severable.

20

21 SECTION 5. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
22 hereby repealed.

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31