

1 State of Arkansas
2 80th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1995

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1691

4 By: Representatives Baker and Pollan

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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO AMEND ARK. CODE §§ 6-18-508 AND 6-18-509 TO
9 CLARIFY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR ALTERNATIVE LEARNING
10 ENVIRONMENTS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS; TO DECLARE AN
11 EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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Subtitle

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

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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-18-508 is hereby amended to
22 read as follows:

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"6-18-508. Alternative learning environment.

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(a) Every school district shall establish an alternative learning
environment for students in an environment conducive to learning.

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(b) Those school districts above two thousand (2,000) average daily
membership, by the year 1993-94; those above one thousand (1,000) average
daily membership, 1994-95; all other school districts, 1995-96.

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(c) The alternative learning environment required by this section may
be established by more than one (1) school district or may be operated by a
public school educational cooperative established under § 6-13-901 et seq.

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(d) The Department of Education shall establish criteria for teacher
preparation for alternative learning environments, which shall include
inservice training.

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(e) *Each school district shall report to the Department of Education,*

1 on a yearly basis, the race, gender, and other pertinent information
2 regarding students placed in an alternative learning environment. This
3 information shall be reported by the department to the Joint Interim
4 Oversight Subcommittee on Educational Reform of the Joint Interim Committee
5 on Education of the General Assembly by June 30 of each year."
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7 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-18-509 is hereby amended to
8 read as follows:

9 "6-18-509. Assessment and intervention in alternative learning
10 environments.

11 (a) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires,
12 intervention services means activities within or outside a school that will
13 eliminate traditional barriers to learning.

14 (b) An Arkansas school district electing to operate an alternative
15 class or school should provide for:

16 (1) Student assessment either before or upon entry into the
17 class or school; and

18 (2) Intervention services designed to address the specific
19 educational needs of individual students.

20 (c) A student assigned to an alternative class or school for
21 behavioral reasons must receive intervention services designed to address the
22 student's behavioral problems. Such intervention services shall not be
23 punitive in nature but must be designed for long-term improvement of the
24 student's ability to control his or her behavior.

25 (d) Along with its annual report to the Department of Education, a
26 school district shall submit an assurance statement that it is in compliance
27 with the establishment of an alternative learning environment.

28 (e) *The Department of Education shall work with alternate classes and*
29 *schools in assisting them in complying with the provisions of this section.*

30 (f) A school district that does not comply with these provisions shall
31 be identified each year in the Department of Education's annual school
32 district report card."
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34 SECTION 3. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent
35 nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas

1 Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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

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

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12 SECTION . EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General
13 Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the immediate effectiveness of this
14 act is essential to implementation of alternative learning environments
15 throughout the state of Arkansas by the 1995-1996 school year and that any
16 delay in the effective date of this act could work irreparable harm to the
17 quality of education available to certain students in this state. Therefore,
18 an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this act being necessary for the
19 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, shall be in
20 full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

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/s/Rep. Baker, et al

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