

1 State of Arkansas
2 80th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1995
4 By: Representatives Malone and Schexnayder
5 By: Senator Hardin

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1777

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO ADOPT WRITTEN STUDENT PUBLICATIONS POLICIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

"TO REQUIRE WRITTEN STUDENT PUBLICATIONS POLICIES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS."

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

SECTION 1. TITLE. This act shall be known and cited as the "Arkansas Student Publications Act".

SECTION 2. Each school board shall adopt rules and regulations in the form of a written student publications policy developed in conjunction with the student publication advisor(s) and the appropriate school administrator(s), consistent with the other provisions of this act, which shall include reasonable provisions for the time, place, and manner of distributing student publications. Such policy shall be in place by January 1, 1996.

SECTION 3. Student publications policies shall recognize that students may exercise their right of expression, within the framework outlined in Section 2 of this act. This right includes expression in school-sponsored publications, whether such publications are supported financially by the school or by use of school facilities, or are produced in conjunction with a class, except as provided in Section 4 of this act.

1 SECTION 4. Student publications policies shall recognize that truth,
2 fairness, accuracy, and responsibility are essential to the practice of
3 journalism, and that the following types of publications by students are not
4 authorized:

5 (1) publications that are obscene as to minors, as defined by state
6 law;

7 (2) publications that are libelous or slanderous, as defined by state
8 law;

9 (3) publications that constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy,
10 as defined by state law; or

11 (4) publications that so incite students as to create a clear and
12 present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on school premises or the
13 violations of lawful school regulations or the material and substantial
14 disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

15

16 SECTION 5. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent
17 nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas
18 Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

19

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

25

26 SECTION 7. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
27 hereby repealed.

28

/s/Rep. Malone, et al

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

As Engrossed: 3/7/95 3/17/95

HB 1777

1

0220951358.jmb253