

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

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2081

4 By: Representative Hudson *and Watts*

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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS DISTANCE LEARNING  
9 DEMONSTRATION PROJECT; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR  
10 OTHER PURPOSES."

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12

## Subtitle

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"TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS DISTANCE  
LEARNING DEMONSTRATION PROJECT."

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

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18 SECTION 1. Title. This act shall be known as and may be cited as the  
19 "Arkansas Distance Learning Demonstration Project Act of 1995."

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21 SECTION 2. Purpose. The purpose of this act is to serve as a  
22 legislative mandate for the establishment, organization, and administration  
23 of a demonstration project designed to improve course offerings available to  
24 high school students throughout the state. The project will demonstrate the  
25 efficiency of using distance learning to enhance education and prepare  
26 students for greater success in a postsecondary educational environment.

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28 SECTION 3. Definitions. As used in this act, unless the context  
29 otherwise requires:

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(1) "OURNET" means the Ozark Unlimited Resources Educational  
Cooperative Network.

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(2) "Board" means the State Board of Education.

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(3) "Distance learning" means an interactive telecommunications system  
that utilizes information technology, audio, video, and similar technological  
elements, is compatible with other distance learning networks, and is used

1 for the purpose of enhancing instructional opportunities in Arkansas public  
2 schools.

3 (4) "Department" means the Arkansas Department of Education, General  
4 Education Division.

5 (5) "Director" means the Director of the General Education Division of  
6 the Arkansas Department of Education.

7 (6) "Infrastructure" means an interlinked system of wires, cables,  
8 fiber optics, or other wireline or wireless communications media.

9 (7) "Project" means the Arkansas Distance Learning Demonstration  
10 Project.

11 (8) "Public telecommunications" means the facilities used in providing  
12 telecommunication services to the public including, but not limited to,  
13 facilities owned and operated by public utilities.

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15 SECTION 4. (a) There is hereby established the Arkansas Distance  
16 Learning Demonstration Project, *which shall be conducted by OURNET and*  
17 *administered through* the Director of the General Education of the Arkansas  
18 Department of Education.

19 (b)(1) The Director shall review the implementation of this project  
20 annually and make recommendations to the Board regarding the number and  
21 amount of awards to ensure that the purpose of the project is realized.

22 (2) The Board is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations  
23 necessary for the implementation of this act.

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25 SECTION 5. The funding necessary to carry out the provisions of this  
26 act may be derived from donations, grants, or legislative appropriation. The  
27 Director may solicit and receive donations and grants for the purpose of  
28 administering the project. All donations, grants, and appropriations  
29 received shall be accounted for by the Department.

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31 SECTION 6. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent  
32 nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas  
33 Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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35 SECTION 7. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to

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

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6 SECTION 8. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
7 hereby repealed.

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9 SECTION 9. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the  
10 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the effectiveness of this act  
11 on July 1, . 1995, is essential to the successful establishment of a distance  
12 learning demonstration project in Arkansas high schools during the 1995-96  
13 school year and to the planning and efficiency of the state agencies and  
14 local school districts involved in the project. Therefore, an emergency is  
15 hereby declared to exist and this act being necessary for the immediate  
16 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, shall be in full force  
17 and effect from and after July 1, 1995.

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*/s/Rep. Hudson, et al*

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***As Engrossed: 3/23/95***

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