

1 State of Arkansas
2 80th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1995
4 By: Senator Mahony

A Bill

SENATE BILL 493

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS SHALL OFFER
9 SPANISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE TO ALL STUDENTS IN GRADES
10 NINE (9) THROUGH TWELVE (12); TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF
11 EDUCATION, THE STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND THE
12 PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO DO ALL THINGS
13 NECESSARY TO ASSIST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THE
14 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

17 "TO PROVIDE THAT SCHOOL DISTRICTS SHALL
18 OFFER SPANISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE TO
19 ALL STUDENTS IN GRADES 9-12."

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

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23 SECTION 1. The General Assembly hereby finds and determines that the
24 number of persons settling in Arkansas who are Hispanic immigrants or are of
25 Hispanic background is rapidly increasing and that, since the signing of the
26 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), it is becoming more obvious that
27 persons in Arkansas who are proficient in Spanish have economic and cultural
28 advantages over those persons who are not. It is therefore the intent of the
29 General Assembly that this act will enable students in Arkansas to be better
30 prepared to live and work in the Twenty-First (21st) Century.

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32 SECTION 2. Beginning with the 1996-97 school year, each local school
33 district in Arkansas shall offer Spanish as a foreign language to students in
34 grades nine (9) through twelve (12).

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1 SECTION 3. (a) The State Board of Education shall do all things
2 necessary to assist local school districts in the implementation of this act,
3 including but not limited to establishing a Department of Education-General
4 Education Division-Spanish Language Incentive Program and applying for
5 federal grants to establish or improve foreign language instruction in local
6 school districts.

7 (b) The State Board of Higher Education and the public colleges and
8 universities shall do all things necessary to the implementation of this act
9 to ensure that an adequate number of teachers certified to teach Spanish are
10 available for employment in local school districts.

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12 SECTION 4. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent
13 nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas
14 Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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

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

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