

1 State of Arkansas

2 80th General Assembly

3 Regular Session, 1995

4 By: Senator Brown

5 By: Representative Hinshaw

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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 "AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS TO
10 ATHLETIC CONFERENCES FOR REGULAR SEASON COMPETITION SHALL
11 BE BASED ON DISTANCE AS WELL AS ENROLLMENT; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES."

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Subtitle

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

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SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. Public high schools in Arkansas are currently assigned to athletic conferences based solely on enrollment, with the result that many athletic contests during the regular season are scheduled between schools that are one hundred and eighty (180) miles or more apart. This has resulted in shortened academic weeks for students because of excessive travel time, making it difficult for them to keep up with their academic work. Such schedules have also resulted in increased travel risks and have reduced interest in athletics, as well as gate receipts, because few parents, relatives, and friends are able to attend athletic events so far away from home.

SECTION 2. (a) Beginning with the 1996-97 school year, no public high school shall be assigned to an athletic conference in which an athletic team

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1 will be required to travel one hundred and eighty (180) highway miles or more
2 one way to compete in regular season conference competition.

3 (b) This section does not apply to non-conference or postseason
4 competition.

5 (c) Beginning with the 1996-97 school year, no public school district
6 shall expend any state or local funds in support of an athletic team that is
7 required to travel in violation of the provisions of this act.

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9 SECTION 3. (a) The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules
10 and regulations necessary to enforce the provisions of this act.

11 (b) The State Department of Education may withhold any portion of
12 Minimum Foundation Program Aid distributed to a local school district for
13 violation of this act or rules and regulations promulgated by the State Board
14 of Education under its provisions.

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16 SECTION 4. 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.

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20 SECTION 5. 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.

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

