

Stricken language would be deleted from present law. Underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 81st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1997  
4

As Engrossed: H2/17/97 H2/19/97 S3/5/97 S3/13/97 S3/27/97

## A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1624

5 *By: Representatives Davis, Rorie, Simmons, and Thicksten*  
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### For An Act To Be Entitled

9 "TO ESTABLISH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCAL SCHOOL  
10 DISTRICTS TO RECEIVE ISOLATED FUNDING; TO DECLARE AN  
11 EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."  
12

### Subtitle

13 "TO ESTABLISH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR  
14 LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO RECEIVE  
15 ISOLATED FUNDING."  
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17

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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20 SECTION 1. Qualifications for receiving isolated funding.

21 (a) As used in this section, "Isolated school district" means a school  
22 district that meets any four (4) of the following five (5) criteria:

23 (1) There is a distance of twelve (12) miles or more by  
24 hard-surfaced highway from the high school of the district to the nearest  
25 adjacent high school in an adjoining district;

26 (2) The density ratio of transported students is less than three  
27 (3) students per square mile of area;

28 (3) The total area of the district is ninety-five (95) square  
29 miles or greater;

30 (4) Less than fifty percent (50%) of bus route miles are on  
31 hard-surfaced roads;

32 (5) There are geographic barriers such as lakes, rivers, and  
33 mountain ranges which would impede travel to schools that otherwise would be  
34 appropriate for consolidation, cooperative programs, and shared services.

35 (b) An isolated school district shall be eligible to receive isolated  
36 funding if:

1                   (1) The district's budget is prepared by the local district with  
2 Department of Education approval;

3                   (2) The district has an average daily membership of less than  
4 three hundred fifty (350);

5                   (3) The district meets the minimum standards for accreditation of  
6 public schools prescribed by law and regulation.

7                   (c) Any school district designated as an isolated school district for  
8 the 1996-97 fiscal year that used geographic barriers as one of the four (4)  
9 criteria necessary to receive isolated funding shall be allowed to continue to  
10 use geographic barriers as a criteria for future allocations of isolated  
11 funding.

12                   (d)(1) State financial aid in the form of isolated funding shall be  
13 provided to local school districts qualifying under this section and shall be  
14 calculated as follows:

15 (350-Previous year's ADM) Previous year's ADM times

16                   850  
17 the base local revenue per student.

18                   (2) There shall be two (2) categories of isolated funding:

19                   (A) Category I isolated funding shall be provided to all  
20 school districts that qualify under this section;

21                   (B) Category II isolated funding shall be further provided  
22 to those school districts that qualify under this section and have an ADM  
23 density ratio of less than 1.2 students per square mile and shall be  
24 calculated at fifty percent (50%) of Category I funding.

25                   (3) Those school districts that qualify under this section and  
26 whose local revenue per student exceeds the base local revenue per student  
27 shall receive isolated funding calculated as follows:

28 (Category I + Category II) = (base local revenue per student - local revenue  
29 per student) times previous year's ADM.

30                   (e) No school district which may qualify under other law to receive  
31 additional state aid because its average daily membership is less than three  
32 hundred fifty (350) shall be eligible to receive funding under this section  
33 except that a district qualifying under other law for such aid and qualifying  
34 for funds under this section may elect to receive funds under this section in  
35 lieu of aid under the other."

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1 SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature  
2 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code  
3 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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

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11 SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
12 hereby repealed.

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14 SECTION 5. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General  
15 Assembly that the immediate effectiveness of this act is essential to the  
16 operation of the school districts that may qualify to receive isolated  
17 funding. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being  
18 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
19 safety shall become effective on the date of its approval by the Governor. If  
20 the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, it shall become  
21 effective on the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor  
22 may veto the bill. If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
23 overridden, it shall become effective on the date the last house overrides the  
24 veto.

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26 /s/Rep. Davis et al

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