

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2119

4
5 By: Representative Cook

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 "AN ACT TO CREATE A TASK FORCE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF LEAST
10 RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT PROVISIONS IN ARKANSAS PUBLIC
11 SCHOOLS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

14 "TO CREATE A TASK FORCE ON
15 IMPLEMENTATION OF LEAST RESTRICTIVE
16 ENVIRONMENT PROVISIONS IN ARKANSAS
17 PUBLIC SCHOOLS."

18
19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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21 SECTION 1. Task force.

22 The State Department of Education is directed to establish a Task Force
23 on Implementation of Least Restrictive Environment Provisions in Arkansas
24 Public Schools.

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26 SECTION 2. Members.

27 The Task Force on Implementation of Least Restrictive Environment
28 Provisions in Arkansas Public Schools shall be composed of the following:

29 (1) Two (2) members who are special education teachers, appointed by
30 the Arkansas Education Association, one (1) a self-contained classroom teacher
31 and one (1) a resource teacher in Arkansas public schools;

32 (2) Two (2) members who are regular education classroom teachers,
33 appointed by the Arkansas Education Association, one (1) an elementary teacher
34 and one (1) a secondary teacher in Arkansas public schools;

35 (3) Two (2) members who are special education supervisors in Arkansas
36 public schools, appointed by the Arkansas Association of Special Education

1 Administrators;

2 (4) Two (2) members who are school administrators, appointed by the
 3 Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators, one (1) a superintendent
 4 and one (1) a principal in Arkansas public schools;

5 (5) Two (2) members, one (1) of whom is the Associate Director of
 6 Special Education of the State Department of Education, or her designee, and
 7 one (1) of whom is an additional staff member appointed by the Associate
 8 Director;

9 (6) Two (2) members who are on the faculty of an Arkansas public
 10 college or university school of education, specializing in special education,
 11 appointed by the Association of Teacher Educators;

12 (7) Two (2) members who are the Chairs of the House and Senate Education
 13 Committees, or their designees; and

14 (8) Two (2) members who are parents of special education students
 15 enrolled in Arkansas public schools, appointed by the Governor.

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17 SECTION 3. Powers.

18 (a) The Task Force on Implementation of Least Restrictive Environment
 19 Provisions in Arkansas Public Schools shall organize itself, elect a chair and
 20 secretary, and develop a calendar of meetings.

21 (b) The task force may conduct surveys, hold public hearings, or use
 22 other means to obtain information to complete its charge.

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24 SECTION 4. Charge.

25 The Task Force on Implementation of Least Restrictive Environment
 26 Provisions in Arkansas Public Schools is charged with the responsibility of
 27 reviewing the implementation of § 6-41-204 and applicable federal statutes in
 28 Arkansas public schools to determine whether:

29 (1) A full continuum of placement options and services within each
 30 option are available;

31 (2) Placement and services are determined by a team that includes all
 32 stakeholders;

33 (3) Appropriate training and adequate resources, including personnel,
 34 are provided for all teachers, administrators, and other stakeholders;

35 (4) Adequate time is provided during the school day for collaborative
 36 planning and conferencing; and

1 (5) Class sizes are responsive to student needs.

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3 SECTION 5. Recommendations.

4 The Task Force on Implementation of Least Restrictive Environment

5 Provisions in Arkansas Public Schools shall:

6 (1) Recommend to the State Board of Education any necessary rules and
7 regulations to ensure effective implementation of § 6-41-204 and applicable
8 federal statutes;

9 (2) Recommend to the House and Senate Interim Committees on Education
10 any necessary legislation to ensure effective implementation of § 6-41-204 and
11 applicable federal statutes; and

12 (3) Recommend the level and distribution of funds necessary for
13 effective implementation of § 6-41-204 and applicable federal statutes.

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

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19 SECTION 7. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
20 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
21 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
22 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
23 act are declared to be severable.

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

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