

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

As Engrossed: S3/19/97 S3/20/97

A Bill

SENATE BILL 627

4
5 By: Senator Hopkins
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For An Act To Be Entitled

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9 "AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE TITLE 6, CHAPTER 43,
10 SUBCHAPTER 1 TO PROVIDE SELECTION CRITERIA FOR FUTURE
11 APPOINTEES TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ARKANSAS SCHOOL
12 FOR THE BLIND AND THE ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF; TO
13 ENCOURAGE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION; TO PROVIDE FOR BOARD
14 TRAINING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

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17 "AN ACT TO PROVIDE SELECTION CRITERIA
18 FOR FUTURE APPOINTEES TO THE BOARD OF
19 TRUSTEES OF THE ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE
20 BLIND AND THE ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE
21 DEAF; TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION;
22 TO PROVIDE FOR BOARD TRAINING."
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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27 SECTION 1. Purpose. (a) It is found and determined by the General
28 Assembly that the various laws of this state providing for the appointment of
29 the members of boards and commissions normally establish selection criteria
30 that reflect the needs of the particular board or commission. Although the
31 Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Blind and the Arkansas School
32 for the Deaf have served this state well in the past, there is no selection
33 criteria for all but one (1) position. Therefore it is the purpose of this
34 act to ensure appropriate representation on the board in the future by
35 establishing selection criteria for future appointees to the board.
36 (b) It is also the purpose of this act to provide for training which

1 will assist board members and to provide ways to increase public
2 participation.

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4 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code 6-43-101, concerning the Board of Trustees of
5 the Arkansas School for the Blind and the Arkansas School for the Deaf, is

6 '(j)(1) In addition to all other requirements of this section:

7 (A) One (1) member of the board shall be a person who is
8 legally blind;

9 (B) Appointments shall be made so that no more than two (2)
10 members of the board shall reside in the same congressional district; and

11 (C) The racial make-up of the board should reflect the
12 racial population of the schools as accurately as possible.ⓧ

13 (2) The provisions of this subsection (j) shall apply to board
14 positions expiring after July 1, 1997.

15 (k) The parents and guardians of deaf students shall annually elect a
16 representative from their membership and the parents and guardians of blind
17 students shall annually elect a representative from their membership. The two
18 (2) representatives shall be entitled to attend and participate in all
19 meetings of the board and shall be afforded the same privileges as a member of
20 the board but shall not be entitled to vote.ⓧ

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22 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code 6-43-101, concerning the Board of Trustees of
23 the Arkansas School for the Blind and the Arkansas School for the Deaf, is
24 amended to read as follows:

25 §(g) The board of trustees shall meet at least monthly and shall fix a
26 regular date for the monthly meeting. Board meetings shall be held at
27 times convenient for the public to attend. The board should consider evening
28 or Saturday meetings. The board shall provide time during each meeting for the
29 public to address the board."

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31 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 43, Subchapter 1 is amended
32 to add a new section to read as follows:

33 §6-43-115. Training and instruction - Reimbursement.

34 (a)(1) All members of the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for
35 the Blind and the Arkansas School for the Deaf should receive a minimum of six
36 (6) hours of training and instruction in the school laws of this state and in

1 the laws governing the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the board.

2 (2) The instruction shall be sponsored by the Department of
3 Education in cooperation with the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for
4 the Blind and the Arkansas School for the Deaf. All or a part of the
5 instruction may be provided in conjunction with the instruction required for
6 school board members under Arkansas Code 6-13-629.

7 (b) The Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Blind and the
8 Arkansas School for the Deaf is authorized to pay necessary expenses and to
9 reimburse board members for expenses incurred in attending in-service
10 workshops, conferences, and other courses of training and instruction
11 necessary to complete the training and instruction provided for by this
12 section. Expense reimbursement shall be made in accordance with 25-16-901 et
13 seq.

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15 SECTION 5. EMERGENCY. It is found and determined by the General
16 Assembly of the State of Arkansas that only one position on the Board of
17 Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Blind and the Arkansas School for the
18 Deaf has any selection criteria for appointment; that in order to ensure that
19 the future board continues to adequately serve the two institutions under its
20 supervision, this act is immediately necessary to establish selection criteria
21 for future appointees to the board; and that this act provides ways to
22 increase public participation in meetings of the board that are immediately
23 necessary to maintain and enhance the reputation of the board with the general
24 public. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being
25 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
26 safety shall become effective on the date of its approval by the Governor. If
27 the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, it shall become
28 effective on the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor
29 may veto the bill. If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
30 overridden, it shall become effective on the date the last house overrides the
31 veto.

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/s/Hopkins