

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

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 705

4  
5 By: Senator Argue  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 "AN ACT TO CREATE A MERITORIOUS SCHOOLS PROGRAM; AND FOR  
10 OTHER PURPOSES."

## Subtitle

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13 "TO CREATE A MERITORIOUS SCHOOLS  
14 PROGRAM."  
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16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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18 SECTION 1. (a) The State Board of Education shall create and implement  
19 a Meritorious School Program. The State Board of Education shall develop  
20 performance criteria by December 31 of each year, the first to be developed no  
21 later than December 31, 1997, which shall be used to evaluate proposals  
22 submitted by the public school districts for qualification for the Meritorious  
23 Schools Program.

24 (b) The criteria shall include, but not be limited to, the overall  
25 educational performance of the public school districts and socioeconomic and  
26 demographic factors which affect student achievement in the classroom.  
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28 SECTION 2. (a) The State Board of Education shall establish guidelines  
29 for the approval of the proposals submitted by the public school districts.

30 (1) A Meritorious School proposal submitted by the public school  
31 districts shall first be approved by the board of directors of the school  
32 district. After approval by the board of directors of the school district,  
33 the proposal shall be submitted to the State Board of Education no later than  
34 March 1 of the school year preceding the year in which the proposal is to be  
35 implemented.

36 (2) The State Board of Education shall notify the board of

1 directors of the school district if the proposal does not comply with the  
2 guidelines established and therefore is not eligible for consideration. In  
3 the event the proposal does not comply with the guidelines, the public school  
4 district may modify the proposal to comply with the guidelines.

5           (3) The State Board of Education shall notify the board of  
6 directors of the public school district if the proposal complies with the  
7 guidelines established and of its eligibility for consideration of the  
8 Meritorious School Award.

9           (b) The State Board of Education shall notify board of directors of the  
10 public school district which have submitted a proposal, of its approval of the  
11 proposal by May 1 of the school year preceding the year in which the proposal  
12 is to be implemented.

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14           SECTION 3. (a) The State Board of Education shall evaluate the  
15 performance of the public school districts for the year after the approval of  
16 the Meritorious School proposal, according to the provisions of the proposal  
17 approved by the State Board of Education.

18           (b) The State Board of Education shall notify those public school  
19 districts receiving a Meritorious School Award no later than September 1 of  
20 the school year in which the proposal was implemented.

21           (c) The Meritorious School Award shall be awarded to the public school  
22 district no later than December 1 of the school year in which the proposal was  
23 implemented.

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25           SECTION 4. (a) The certified personnel of each local school receiving  
26 the Meritorious School Award shall determine the uses for the award. The  
27 determination shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the certified  
28 employees in a secret ballot election conducted by the local school  
29 district's Committee on Personnel Policies.

30           (b) If no Committee on Personnel Policies exists in the local  
31 school district, the procedure for conducting the election shall be  
32 established by the organization in the public school district representing a  
33 majority of the teachers in the public school district.

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35           SECTION 5. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature  
36 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code

1 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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

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9       SECTION 7. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
10 hereby repealed.

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