

1 State of Arkansas  
2 81st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1997  
4  
5 By: Senator Jeffries

## A Bill

SENATE BILL 740

### For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO REQUIRE SCHOOLS TO DEDICATE EIGHTY PERCENT  
(80%) OF THEIR CLASS-TIME TO ACADEMIC CORE CURRICULUM  
CLASSES."

### Subtitle

"AN ACT TO REQUIRE SCHOOLS TO DEDICATE  
EIGHTY PERCENT (80%) OF THEIR CLASS-TIME  
TO ACADEMIC CORE CURRICULUM CLASSES."

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

SECTION 1. The General Assembly hereby recognizes that taking academic  
core curriculum in school is essential for success of students in public  
schools and in college. Arkansas high school students who complete the  
recommended precollegiate or technical preparation core curriculum score  
significantly higher on standardized preadmissions tests and are more likely  
to be successful in college. Moreover the State of Arkansas also benefits  
from the academic success of well-prepared college students.

SECTION 2. (a) Each local school district shall biannually, beginning  
with the 1997-98 school year, establish academic core curriculum classes  
including those classes which will prepare the students in the fundamentals of  
reading, writing, and mathematics. The academic core curriculum shall be  
approved by the State Board of Education.

(b) Each local school district shall require that its teachers dedicate  
eighty percent (80%) of their class time on the core curriculum classes as  
approved by the State Board of Education.

(c) If the State Board of Education does not determine that an upward

1 trend in the improvement of test scores has occurred, the provisions of this  
2 act shall expire on September 1, 2001.

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

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

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14 SECTION 5. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
15 hereby repealed.

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