

1 State of Arkansas
2 82nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1999

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2037

4
5 By: Representatives Allison, J. Jeffress, Hathorn
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 "AN ACT TO REQUIRE NOTICE OF INTENT TO HOME SCHOOL TO
10 BE GIVEN TO A SCHOOL DISTRICT NO LATER THAN FOURTEEN
11 (14) CALENDAR DAYS PRIOR TO THE START OF THE SPRING
12 AND FALL SEMESTER OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR; TO PROHIBIT
13 PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM ENROLLING IN A HOME SCHOOL
14 IF THE STUDENT IS UNDER DISCIPLINARY ACTION; TO
15 PROVIDE THAT PARENTS OR GUARDIANS WHO HOME SCHOOL
16 THEIR CHILDREN MUST MEET CERTAIN QUALIFICATIONS; AND
17 FOR OTHER PURPOSES. "

Subtitle

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19 "TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE HOME-
20 SCHOOL LAW. "
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 6-15-503(a)(1) pertaining to notice of intent
27 to home school is amended to read as follows:

28 "(a)(1) Parents or guardians desiring to provide a home school for
29 their children must give written notice to the superintendent of their local
30 school district of their intent to provide a home school for their child and
31 sign a waiver authorizing the release of the State of Arkansas from any future
32 liability for the education of their child:

33 (A) ~~At the beginning of each school year for parents who~~
34 ~~are currently homeschooling their child; or~~ Except as provided in subdivisions
35 (a)(1)(B) and (C) of this section, the notice and waiver must be given to the
36 superintendent at least fourteen (14) days prior to the beginning of each fall

1 and spring semester for those who intend to home school.

2 (B) Parents or guardians desiring to provide a home school
 3 for their child must give written notice to the superintendent of their local
 4 school district of their intent to provide a home school for their child and
 5 sign a waiver authorizing the release of the State of Arkansas from any future
 6 liability for the education of their child fourteen (14) calendar days prior
 7 to withdrawing their child from school, if:

8 (i) The child is failing two (2) or more core
 9 curriculum courses;

10 (ii) The child has a serious medical condition or
 11 other health problem verified by a doctor's written statement which
 12 specifically recommends home schooling for the child because of the child's
 13 medical condition; or

14 (iii) There is documented concern regarding the
 15 child's safety.

16 ~~(B) At the time during the school year that the parent~~
 17 ~~withdraws the child from the local school district and at the beginning of~~
 18 ~~each school year thereafter. (C) The superintendent or the board of directors~~
 19 ~~of the school district may waive the notice requirements set forth under this~~
 20 ~~section."~~

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 22 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code 6-15-503 relating to home schooling is amended
 23 by adding the following subsection to the end thereof:

24 "(d) No public school student shall be eligible for enrollment in a home
 25 school if the student is currently under disciplinary action for violation of
 26 any school policy, including, but not limited to, excessive unexcused
 27 absences.

28 (e) Public school students who are under disciplinary action by the
 29 local school district shall be eligible for enrollment in a home school if:

30 (1) The superintendent or local school board chooses to allow the
 31 child to enroll in a home school;

32 (2) The disciplinary action against the student has been
 33 completed or at the end of a school semester, whichever occurs first; or

34 (3) The student has been expelled."

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 36 SECTION 3. Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 5 of the Arkansas Code is

1 amended to add the following new section to the end thereof to be
 2 appropriately numbered by the Arkansas Code Revision Commission:

3 "(a) Each parent or guardian providing a home school for their children
 4 must meet the following qualifications:

5 (1) A parent or guardian must hold at least a high school diploma
 6 or the equivalent general educational development (GED) certificate;

7 (2) The instructional year must be at least one hundred eighty
 8 (180) days;

9 (3) The curriculum must include, but is not limited to, the basic
 10 instructional areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social
 11 studies, and in grades seven through twelve, composition and literature; and

12 (4) The parent or guardian must maintain educational records
 13 which shall include a plan book, diary, or other record indicating subjects
 14 taught and activities in which the student and teacher engage and a portfolio
 15 of samples of the student's academic work.

16 (b)(1) Each parent or guardian providing a home school for their
 17 children shall annually provide a report to the superintendent of the local
 18 school district evidencing that the parent or guardian has met the
 19 qualifications set forth in subsection (a).

20 (2) The report shall be filed with the superintendent prior to
 21 June 30th each year."

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

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

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 33 SECTION 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
 34 hereby repealed.