

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to law as it existed prior to the 82nd General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 82nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1999
4

As Engrossed: H3/31/99

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2267

5 By: Representatives T. Steele, Jones, Salmon, T. Thomas, White
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT
10 PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO AT-RISK HIGH SCHOOL
11 STUDENTS TO PROVIDE CHARACTER BUILDING AND OTHER
12 SUPPORT PROGRAMS; TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR AFTER-
13 SCHOOL PROGRAMS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH HIGH
14 PERCENTAGES OF AT-RISK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS; AND FOR
15 OTHER PURPOSES. "

Subtitle

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18 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE AFTER-SCHOOL
19 ENRICHMENT PROGRAM. "

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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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SECTION 1. Definitions.

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25 As used in this act:

26 (1) "After school enrichment program" means a program conducted after
27 regular school hours to provide additional assistance for at risk high school
28 students requiring tutorial or mentoring assistance with character building,
29 communication skills, conflict resolution skills and career or other life
30 skills.

31 (2) "At risk students" means high school students who are in danger of
32 dropping out as measured by academic performance, attendance, discipline
33 problems, and other factors affecting school performance, including at least,
34 teenage pregnancy or parenting, alcohol or other illegal drugs, residence in
35 an unstable or temporary living arrangement, or child abuse or neglect, poor
36 communication skills, character building, conflict resolution skills, career

1 or other life skills.

2 (3) "At risk school district" means a school district in which a middle
3 school, junior high or high school has high drop-out rates, low grade-
4 retention rates, or high rates of suspensions, detention referrals, violent
5 behavior or other disruptive student behavior.

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7 SECTION 2. (a) There is created the Arkansas After-School Enrichment
8 Program.

9 (b)The purpose of the Arkansas After-School Enrichment Program is to
10 provide grants to at risk school districts for locally designed programs based
11 on criteria developed through research-based prevention programs deemed
12 effective by the Department of Education that target at risk students in
13 middle school, junior high, high school or any combination of the three by:

14 (1) Enhancing educational attainment through coordinated services
15 to respond to the needs of students who are at risk of school failure and at
16 risk of failure in their lives and careers following their school years;

17 (2) Providing financial assistance for at risk students to those
18 at risk school districts that by definition are identified to have the
19 greatest need; and

20 (3) Providing for a safe and secure learning environment.

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22 SECTION 3. (a) The Department of Health shall be the agency designated
23 to serve as the administrative and fiscal agent for the Arkansas After-School
24 Enrichment Program.

25 (b) Funds appropriated for the Arkansas After-School Enrichment Program
26 may only be used for activities in support of the program which comply with
27 the stated legislative purpose as contained in this act.

28 (c) The Department of Health shall have the following authority and
29 responsibilities in acting as fiscal agent for the Arkansas After-School
30 Enrichment Program within the Common Ground Program:

31 (1) To disburse the After-School Enrichment Program grant funds
32 to qualifying entities at a minimum of forty percent (40%) of the allocation
33 of Common Ground Program funds, as directed by the Common Ground Program
34 Committee;

35 (2) To solicit proposals from at risk school districts with high
36 percentages of at-risk high schools for after-school enrichment programs;

1 (3) To ensure that applications include evidence of a district-
2 wide needs assessment and planning processes, program objectives and
3 activities, anticipated results, and evaluation plan, and proposed linkages
4 with community health and human service agencies and existing school programs;

5 (4) To provide technical assistance to at risk school districts,
6 including information about effective research-based prevention programs and
7 agency services, provide for program review and evaluation and, in
8 consultation with other state agencies, including the Department of Education,
9 develop program guidelines for coordinated service delivery and shall
10 establish standards against which programs may be judged for efficiency and
11 effectiveness;

12 (5) To submit applications on behalf of Common Ground Program
13 Committee for funds which may become available from public and private funding
14 sources which would be used to implement the activities of the Arkansas After-
15 School Enrichment Program; and

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17 SECTION 4. (a) All agencies of the state and local governments,
18 including departments of social services, health departments, local mental
19 health, mental retardation, and substance abuse authorities, court personnel,
20 law enforcement agencies, state-supported institutions of higher learning, the
21 community college system, and cities and counties, shall cooperate with the
22 Common Ground Program and the Common Ground Program Committee, and with at
23 risk school districts that receive grants, in coordinating the Arkansas After-
24 School Enrichment Program at the state level and in implementing the program
25 at the local level.

26 (b) The Department of Health, in consultation with the Director of the
27 Department of Education and the Director of the Department of Human Services
28 shall develop a plan for ensuring the cooperation of state agencies and local
29 agencies and encouraging the cooperation of private entities, especially those
30 receiving state funds, in the coordination and implementation of the program.

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32 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code 9-33-204 is amended to read as follows:

33 "9-33-204. Common Ground Committee - Powers and duties.

34 The Common Ground Program Committee shall have responsibility to:

35 ~~(1) Collaborate with the Governor's Partnership Council for Children~~
36 ~~and Families, youth commissions, including but not limited to the Governor's~~

1 ~~Youth Commission, and any other organization or entity that will provide~~
 2 ~~information or support in developing and implementing the Common Ground~~
 3 ~~Program;~~

4 ~~(2)~~ (1) Periodically review grants using committee members and/or a
 5 peer review process and make recommendations as needed to the Governor's
 6 Office and to the General Assembly regarding the performance of grantees;

7 ~~(3)~~ (2) Develop criteria and priorities for a grant program to be based
 8 on the recommendations from the Governor's Youth Summit on Violence Prevention
 9 that was held in December 1994, the regional summits held in 1996-1997, and
 10 from regional summits, public hearings, and surveys thereafter;

11 ~~(4)~~ (3) Award grants using the criteria and priorities established by
 12 the Common Ground Program Committee and report the awards to the Governor's
 13 office;

14 ~~(5)~~ (4) Develop information about the Common Ground Program that the
 15 Governor's office, the legislature, and others can use to disseminate
 16 information to the general public; ~~and~~

17 ~~(6)~~ (5) Report the results of the program annually to the Governor and
 18 the General Assembly; ~~and~~

19 (6) Administer the Arkansas After-School Enrichment Program, including
 20 at least, developing criteria and priorities for a grant program, awarding
 21 grants, developing information about the Arkansas After-School Enrichment
 22 Program that the Governor's office, the General Assembly, and others can use
 23 to disseminate information to the general public and reporting the results of
 24 the program annually to the Governor and the Speaker of the House of
 25 Representatives and the President Pro-Tem of the Senate."

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

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

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

3 /s/ T. Steele, et al
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