

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: S3/17/99

A Bill

SENATE BILL 780

5 By: Senator Gordon
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 "AN ACT TO REQUIRE COORDINATION OF ALL *TECHNOLOGICAL*
10 ASPECTS OF DISTANCE LEARNING ACTIVITIES IN ARKANSAS;
11 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. "

Subtitle

14 "AN ACT TO REQUIRE COORDINATION OF ALL
15 *TECHNOLOGICAL* ASPECTS OF DISTANCE
16 LEARNING ACTIVITIES IN ARKANSAS. "

17
18
19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
20

21 SECTION 1. Intent.

22 It is the intent of the General Assembly that expenditures of state funds for
23 distance learning *technology* promote statewide access to a shared-use network
24 infrastructure, foster open standards for applications, optimize benefits,
25 create opportunities for innovation in state government, and transform
26 institutional and budgeting behavior.

27
28 SECTION 2. For the purposes of this act, "distance learning" means
29 education and training that takes place when the student and the teacher are
30 separated by space or time and the gap between them is bridged through the
31 help of technology, including connecting students and teachers by way of the
32 World Wide Web and interactive videoconferencing.

33 34 SECTION 3. Coordination required.

35 No funds appropriated for any state agency, board, office, commission or
36 institution shall be used for the *technological* implementation of distance

1 learning until the plan for the spending of such funds for distance learning
2 technology has been prepared by the state agency, board, office, commission or
3 institution and submitted to the Department of Information Systems' Office of
4 Information Technology. The Office of Information Technology shall develop
5 model criteria for the users of distance learning technology to insure
6 compatibility and maintain the integrity of the statewide network
7 infrastructure. The model distance learning criteria shall include accepted
8 technological standards for voice, video, and data communications so that the
9 quality of service can be optimized throughout the statewide network
10 infrastructure. The Office of Information Technology shall report monthly to
11 the Governor and the Joint Committee on Advanced Telecommunications and
12 Information Technology on its activities regarding distance learning.

13
14 SECTION 4. All provisions of this section shall expire on July 1, 2001.

15
16 SECTION 5. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
17 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
18 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

19
20 SECTION 6. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
21 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
22 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
23 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
24 act are declared to be severable.

25
26 SECTION 7. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
27 hereby repealed.

28
29 /s/ Gordon