

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

As Engrossed: S3/23/99

A Bill

SENATE BILL 832

4
5 By: Senator Gordon
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 "AN ACT TO PROVIDE DISTANCE LEARNING IN THE STATE; TO
10 CREATE THE ARKANSAS INTERAGENCY DISTANCE LEARNING
11 REVIEW COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. "

Subtitle

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13
14 "AN ACT TO PROVIDE DISTANCE LEARNING IN
15 THE STATE. "

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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 SECTION 1. Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the
21 planning and implementation of distance learning should create opportunities
22 for innovation in education, transform institutional behavior, and prepare
23 students for participation in the information age economy.
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25 SECTION 2. (a) The Department of Education shall plan for the statewide
26 implementation of distance learning in elementary and secondary public schools
27 in the state.

28 (b) The elementary or secondary school may utilize courses from outside
29 the state; however, the course curriculum shall be reviewed by the Department
30 of Education or the Department of Workforce Education prior to offering the
31 courses through distance learning.

32 (c) The courses offered through distance learning may include college
33 preparatory courses, advanced mathematics and science courses, and
34 technological courses.

35 (d) The Department of Education shall work with the Arkansas School for
36 Mathematics and Sciences, the Arkansas Educational Television Commission, the

1 Education Service Cooperatives, the State Library, and other state agencies
2 involved in distance learning.

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4 SECTION 3. The Department of Higher Education shall coordinate the
5 implementation of distance learning at the state's public institutions of
6 higher education.

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8 SECTION 4. The Department of Workforce Education shall cooperate with
9 the Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education to
10 implement distance learning throughout the state.

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12 SECTION 5. (a) There is established the Arkansas Interagency Distance
13 Learning Review Commission. The purpose of the commission is to review the
14 state's comprehensive distance learning program in order to compile a complete
15 catalogue of available distance learning opportunities, address statewide
16 policy issues regarding the coordination of services and foster coordination
17 and cooperation in the delivery of services.

18 (b) The membership of the Arkansas Interagency Distance Learning Review
19 Committee shall include:

20 (1) The director of the Arkansas Department of Education;

21 (2) The director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education;

22 (3) The director of the Arkansas Department of Workforce

23 Education;

24 (4) The director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission;

25 (5) The director of the Arkansas Department of Information

26 Systems; and

27 (6) The co-chair of the Executive Council of Presidents and

28 Chancellors.

29 (c) The commission shall meet on a regular basis and shall make
30 recommendations to the House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate
31 Interim Committee on Education by August 1 of the year preceding the year in
32 which the regular session of the General Assembly is held regarding the
33 performance and coordination of the state's program of distance learning.

34 (d) Staff support shall be provided by the appropriate personnel from
35 the Department of Education, the state's public institutions of higher
36 education, the Department of Higher Education, and the Department of Workforce

1 Education, with the assistance of any appropriate staff of the other agencies
2 whose directors serve on the commission.

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4 SECTION 6. 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 7. 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 8. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
15 hereby repealed.

16 */s/ Gordon*

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