

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: S3/29/99

A Bill

SENATE BILL 890

5 By: Senator Mahony
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 "AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS COMPREHENSIVE
10 ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM FOR EDUCATION ACT OF 1999; AND
11 FOR OTHER PURPOSES."
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Subtitle

13 "AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS
14 COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM FOR
15 EDUCATION ACT OF 1999."
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. This act may be cited as and shall be known as the "Arkansas
22 Comprehensive Accountability System for Education Act of 1999."
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25 SECTION 2. Legislative Intent.

26 (a) The Arkansas General Assembly recognizes economic and societal
27 importance of providing a quality educational opportunity to every public
28 school student in the state.

29 (b) The General Assembly acknowledges that the State of Arkansas:

30 (1) Is ultimately responsible for the quality and effectiveness
31 of the state's system of public education and must ensure that students
32 graduate with the knowledge and preparation necessary to be contributing
33 members of society.; and

34 (2) Has established departments of the executive branch of
35 government, political subdivisions of the state known as school districts
36 which are governed by boards of directors, and other instrumentalities to

1 assist it in carrying out its constitutionally mandated responsibilities; and
2 (3) Has an obligation to inform the citizens who support the
3 system of public education with their tax dollars as to the results being
4 produced by that system in a clear and unambiguous manner.

5 (c) The General Assembly further acknowledges that every school and
6 school district in Arkansas, supported by and assisted by their patrons, must
7 provide a strong program of study in core academic areas that is overseen by
8 qualified teachers and administrators in a safe and appropriate learning
9 environment so that students can achieve to the fullest of their capabilities
10 and potential.

11 (d) The General Assembly further acknowledges that students, schools,
12 and school districts must be held to rigorous standards of achievement and
13 rewarded for attainment of those standards or assisted when they fail to do
14 so.

15 (e) The General Assembly finds that in order for all involved in the
16 state's system of public education to work to meet this challenge, a revision
17 of existing statutes is necessary to establish a comprehensive system of
18 accountability for students, schools, school districts, state agencies, and
19 state educational instrumentalities.

20 (f) The General Assembly further finds that a comprehensive
21 accountability system should be composed of:

22 (1) A clearly defined and articulated set of content and student
23 achievement standards; and

24 (2) A system of measurement and assessment that is aligned with
25 the achievement standards; and

26 (3) A variety of mechanisms for reporting results; and

27 (4) A system of professional development clearly and explicitly
28 linked to the system of measurement and assessment and the content and student
29 achievement standards, and

30 (5) A system of rewards, sanctions, and targeted assistance.

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

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36 SECTION 4. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to

1 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
2 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
3 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
4 act are declared to be severable.

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

8 /s/ Mahony
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