

**Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.**

1 State of Arkansas  
2 83rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2001  
4

*As Engrossed: S2/22/01*  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1501

5 By: Representative Hendren  
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8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO  
10 ANNUALLY VISIT CLASSROOMS IN THE DISTRICT IN WHICH  
11 THEY SERVE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12

13 **Subtitle**

14 AN ACT TO REQUIRE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD  
15 OF DIRECTORS TO ANNUALLY VISIT  
16 CLASSROOMS IN THE DISTRICT IN WHICH THEY  
17 SERVE.  
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19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
21

22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 6-13-620 is amended to read as follows:  
23 6-13-620. Powers and duties.

24 The board of directors of each school district in the state shall be  
25 charged with the following powers and perform the following duties:

26 (1) Have the care and custody of the schoolhouse, grounds, and other  
27 property belonging to the district and shall keep it in good repair and in  
28 sanitary and sightly condition;

29 (2) Lease sixteenth section lands located in the school district,  
30 individually or in conjunction with the other boards of directors of other  
31 school districts interested in the sixteenth section, as the case may be;

32 (3) Purchase buildings or rent schoolhouses and sites therefor and  
33 sell, rent, or exchange such sites or schoolhouses;

34 (4)(A) Employ teachers and other employees necessary for the proper  
35 conduct of the public schools of the district and make written contracts with  
36 teachers and all other employees in the form prescribed by the State Board of

1 Education.

2 (B) There shall be four (4) copies of each contract made:

3 (i) One (1) copy to be retained by the board;

4 (ii) One (1) copy to be given to the employee;

5 (iii) One (1) copy to be forwarded to the county treasurer

6 if the county treasurer serves as treasurer for the school district; and

7 (iv) One (1) copy to be filed with the county clerk.

8 (C) The issuing of annual contracts to personnel other than  
9 substitute teachers employed on a daily basis and teachers shall be in writing  
10 and shall recite the duration of employment, specific duties, and annual  
11 salary;

12 (5) See that all subjects for study prescribed by the state board or by  
13 law for all grades of schools in their district are taught;

14 (6) Visit classrooms frequently, but no less than annually, in the  
15 schools ~~frequently~~ in their district while children are present, see to the  
16 welfare of the pupils, encourage them in their studies, and assist the  
17 teachers in the work so far as they can;

18 (7) Prepare and publish the district's budget for the ensuing year, in  
19 accordance with § 6-13-622;

20 (8) Issue warrants on the county treasurer when the county treasurer  
21 serves as treasurer of the school district, in accordance with the provisions  
22 of this act for the payment of salaries due teachers and other employees and  
23 for any other lawful purposes and state in the warrants the consideration for  
24 which each is drawn provided that the issuance of the warrants for the  
25 purposes set out in subdivision (10) of this section shall be governed by the  
26 penalty therein set out. The warrant shall be in the form approved by the  
27 state board;

28 (9) Obtain from the county collector and county treasurer information  
29 from time to time as to the state of finances of their school district and  
30 keep their expenditures safely within the means of the district;

31 (10) Buy and pay for out of district school funds supplies such as  
32 fuel, crayons, charts, globes, dictionaries, etc., which may be necessary for  
33 the efficient operation of the schools, provided, no warrants shall be issued  
34 by any school board for the payment of the supplies or services set out in  
35 this subdivision (10) until the supplies or services shall have been delivered  
36 to the school. If any school board or any part of the directors of any school

1 board in the State of Arkansas shall issue warrants in payment of supplies or  
2 services prior to the delivery of the supplies or services to the school and  
3 if the school district suffers any loss because of the failure of the seller  
4 to deliver the supplies or services or because of the defective quality of the  
5 supplies or services or for any other reason, then the directors shall be  
6 personally liable to the school district for the total amount of loss suffered  
7 by the district;

8 (11)(A) If in any school district it should be apparent that the  
9 schools cannot be operated for the remainder of the school year without  
10 incurring more indebtedness than that represented by outstanding bonds and  
11 those that may be issued for buildings, equipment for the school buildings,  
12 purchasing sites, and repairing school buildings or the improvement of sites,  
13 it shall be the duty of the school district board of directors to close the  
14 school and cease paying the teachers for the remainder of that fiscal year.  
15 Each contract made with the teachers shall be subject to that contingency, and  
16 the district shall not be liable for teachers' salaries for the time the  
17 school is so closed.

18 (B) Should any director participate in keeping a school open and  
19 incurring additional expenses which would cause increased indebtedness of the  
20 district prohibited in this subdivision (11), he shall be liable personally  
21 for the amount of such additional indebtedness.

22 (C) However, in cases of emergency, the State Board of Education  
23 may grant special permission to a district to create temporary current  
24 indebtedness.

25 (D) Nothing herein shall prevent any school district board of  
26 directors from borrowing money from banks, from individuals, or from next  
27 year's revenue in order to provide funds in such amount that the maximum  
28 nonbonded indebtedness of their school district so incurred shall not be  
29 greater than the maximum nonbonded indebtedness of such district was at any  
30 time during the preceding fiscal year.

31 (E) If any nonbonded debt is funded by the issuance of bonds, the  
32 amount so funded shall not be considered in determining the maximum amount of  
33 nonbonded indebtedness during the preceding fiscal year; and

34 (12) Do all other things necessary and lawful for the conduct of  
35 efficient free public schools in the district.

36 /s/ Hendren