

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: H3/23/01

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2545

5 By: Representative C. Johnson
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 THE ARKANSAS DELTA LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2001.
9

Subtitle

10 THE ARKANSAS DELTA LEADERSHIP ACT OF
11 2001.
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16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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18 SECTION 1. This act shall be known as the "Arkansas Delta Leadership
19 Act of 2001."
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21 SECTION 2. (a) The General Assembly finds:

22 (1) Teachers in the delta are not provided adequate professional
23 growth opportunities within the Delta region as may be necessary to improve
24 their teaching and learning.

25 (2) An alignment of service providers is needed to ensure gains
26 made are monitored and maintained in the classroom.

27 (3) Delta teachers often do not participate in professional
28 development opportunities designed to support underrepresented and
29 underserved teachers of the Delta because of the travel requirements
30 necessary for participation.

31 (4) A program is needed to provide services for teachers in the
32 Delta that connect them to their own geographical region; to provide a strong
33 network of individuals that can communicate regional needs for students; and
34 to focus on student achievement.

35 (b) The General Assembly further finds that such a program is expected
36 to:

1 (1) Close the achievement gaps between del ta schools and the
2 state average on student achievement;

3 (2) Create a network of teachers to communicate and network on
4 issues related to academic standards;

5 (3) Provide knowledge and skill building opportuni ties for
6 career and new teachers that are directly related to areas of need as
7 indicated by data;

8 (4) Provide professional development planning for the wise use
9 and convergence of funding federally funded programs, state funds or
10 programs, and local funds or programs; and

11 (5) Provide grant writing expertise to districts to help them
12 access funding needed to improve the quality of their academic programs.

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14 SECTION 3. (a) The Arkansas Leadership Institute for Teachers of the
15 Del ta is created and shall be known as "A-Li ft".

16 (b)(1) A-Li ft shall provide for professional development planning,
17 training and implementation of effective teaching strategies in del ta school
18 districts.

19 (2) A-Li ft shall also provide mentoring to teachers seeking
20 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certi fication.

21 (3) A-Li ft shall target del ta school districts in Arkansas that
22 are part of the counties identi fied as del ta counties by the Del ta Regional
23 Authority.

24 (c)(1) A-Li ft shall be located in Helena, Pine Bluff, or Monticello,
25 Arkansas at an existing site with space available to house the insti tute.

26 (2) An existing site may be a two-year insti tution, a four-year
27 insti tution, an education service cooperative or other insti tution.

28 (3) Preference for location shall be given to four-year
29 insti tutions or education service cooperatives in Helena, Pine Bluff, or
30 Monticello, Arkansas which have experience in professional development
31 support mentoring, teacher licensure, and teacher quality.

32 (4) The State Board of Education shall have authority to issue
33 the requests for proposals site selection, and the selection shall be based
34 upon a response to a request for proposal issued through the State Board of
35 Education.

36 (d) The State Board of Education may promulgate rules and regulations

1 as necessary for the implementation of this act.

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/s/ C. Johnson

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