

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.

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: S2/19/01 S2/20/01

83rd General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2001

SENATE BILL 417

By: Senator Mahony

For An Act To Be Entitled

THE SPANISH AS ARKANSAS' PRIMARY FOREIGN LANGUAGE ACT
OF 2001.

Subtitle

THE SPANISH AS ARKANSAS' PRIMARY FOREIGN
LANGUAGE ACT OF 2001.

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

SECTION 1. This act shall be known as the "Spanish as Arkansas' Primary Foreign Language Act of 2001."

SECTION 2. The General Assembly finds that the number of people settling in Arkansas who are Hispanic immigrants or are of Hispanic background is rapidly increasing, and that since the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), it is becoming obvious that Arkansans who are proficient in Spanish have economic and cultural advantages over those persons who are not. It is therefore the intent of the General Assembly that this act will enable students in Arkansas to be better prepared to live and work in the Twenty-first Century.

SECTION 3. Beginning with the 2005-2006 school year or a later year as determined by State Board of Education, each local school district in Arkansas shall offer no less than two (2) years of Spanish as a foreign language to students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12).

SECTION 4. (a) The State Board of Education shall assist local school

1 districts in the implementation of this act, including, but not limited to,
2 establishing a Department of Education Spanish Language Incentive Program and
3 applying for federal grants to establish or improve foreign language
4 instruction in local school districts.

5 (b)(1) The State Board of Higher Education and the state supported
6 colleges and universities shall ensure that an adequate number of teachers
7 certified to teach Spanish are available for employment in local school
8 districts. Working in conjunction with the Higher Education Coordinating
9 Board, the State Board of Education shall determine the earliest possible date
10 to implement this act.

11 (2)(A) The State Board of Education shall report to the Senate and
12 House Interim Committees on Education on or before July 1, 2002, the steps
13 necessary to achieve the requirements of Section 3 of this act.

14 (B) The boards shall consider targeted scholarships and
15 alternative certification as steps to assist school districts with achieving
16 the requirements of Section 3 of this act.

17 (c) Rules for the implementation of this act, with provisions for
18 grandparenting in existing instructors, shall be recommended in the July 1,
19 2002 report and shall include, but not be limited to:

20 (1) A school district, that employs a teacher teaching a foreign
21 language other than Spanish prior to July 1, 2006 or the date upon which the
22 Department of Education implements the provisions of this act, may continue to
23 offer that foreign language instead of Spanish until the teacher discontinues
24 his or her employment as a teacher of that foreign language;

25 (2) A teacher of a foreign language other than Spanish may
26 transfer to another school district and that school district may continue to
27 offer that foreign language instead of Spanish until the teacher discontinues
28 his or her employment as a teacher of that foreign language if the teacher of
29 the foreign language was employed by a school district prior to July 1, 2006
30 or the date upon which the Department of Education implements the provisions
31 of this act; and

32 (3) After July 1, 2006 or the date upon which the Department of
33 Education implements the provisions of this act, a teacher of a foreign
34 language other than Spanish may be hired to teach a foreign language other
35 than Spanish if the school district offers at least two (2) years of Spanish
36 to students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12).

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2 SECTION 5. (a) The State Board of Education shall establish a
3 relationship with the appropriate entities of the Estados Unidos de Mexico to
4 develop cultural exchanges, mutual planning, and if possible, sister-state
5 relationships with various estados.

6 (b) The sister-state relationships shall be developed in consultation
7 with the Arkansas Economic Development Council.
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9 SECTION 6. [THE ARKANSAS CODE REVISION COMMISSION IS NOT REQUIRED TO
10 CODIFY THIS SECTION.] The Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall not codify
11 the Spanish translation of this act.
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14 Para Un Acto Que Se Llamara

15 EL ACTO DE ESPANOL COMO LENGUA EXTRANJERA PRIMARIA DE ARKANSAS DE 2001.
16

17 Subtitulo

18 EL ACTO DE ESPANOL COMO LENGUA EXTRANJERA PRIMARIA DE ARKANSAS DE 2001.
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20 SEA PROMULGADO POR LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL DEL ESTADO DE ARKANSAS:
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22 SECCION 1. Este acto será conocido como el "Acto De Español Como Lengua
23 Extranjera Primaria de Arkansas de 2001."
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25 SECCION 2. La Asamblea General halla que la cantidad de gente que se
26 domicilia en Arkansas que son inmigrantes hispanos o de antecedentes hispanos
27 se acrecenta con rapidez, y que desde el firmar del Tratado de Libre Comercio
28 de América, se hace obvio que la gente de Arkansas que no son proficientes en
29 la lengua española tienen ventajas económicas y culturales sobre la gente que
30 no la hablan. Es entonces el intento de la Asamblea General que este acto
31 habilite que los estudiantes de Arkansas sean mejor preparados para vivir y
32 trabajar en el siglo veintiuno.
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34 SECCION 3. Empezando con el año escolar 2005-2006 o en el año
35 determinado por el State Board of Education, cada distrito de Arkansas
36 ofrecerá no menos de dos (2) años de Español como lengua extranjera a los

1 estudiantes en los grados nueve (9) a doce (12).

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3 SECCION 4. (a) El State Board of Education ayudará a los distritos
4 escolares locales en la realización de este acto, incluyendo, pero no limitado
5 a, el establecer de un programa incentiva de la lengua española del
6 Departament of Education y el solicitar de becas federales para establecer o
7 mejorar la instrucción de lenguas extranjeras en los distritos escolares
8 locales.

9 (b)(1) El State Board of Higher Education y las universidades apoyados
10 por el estado garantizarán que una cantidad adecuada de profesores
11 certificados para enseñar español sea disponible para ser empleados en
12 distritos escolares locales. Trabajando junto con el Higher Education
13 Coordinating Board, el State Board of Education determinará cual sea la fecha
14 mas temprana para realizar este acto.

15 (2)(A) El State Board of Education se comunicará con los Senate
16 and House Interim Committees on Education en, o antes de, 1 Julio, 2002, los
17 pasos necesarios para lograr los menésteres de la sección 3 de este acto.

18 (B) Los Boards considerarán becas específicas y
19 certificación alternativa como pasos para ayudar a los distritos escolares
20 lograr los menésteres de la sección 3 de este acto.

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22 SECCION 5. (a) El State Board of Education establecerá una
23 interrelación con los entidades de los Estados Unidos de Mexico para
24 desarrollar intercambios culturales, planificación mutua, y si es posible,
25 interrelaciones de estados hermanos con varios estados.

26 (b) Las interrelaciones de estados hermanos serán desarrollados en
27 consulta con el Concejal del Desarrollo Económico de Arkansas.

28 /s/ Mahony
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