

**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: S3/19/01*

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 907

5 By: Senator Riggs  
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7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS BLUE RIBBON  
10 COMMISSION ON PUBLIC EDUCATION; AND FOR OTHER  
11 PURPOSES.  
12

## Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS BLUE  
15 RIBBON COMMISSION ON PUBLIC EDUCATION.  
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Blue Ribbon Commission on Public Education.

21 (a) There is created a legislative committee to be known as the  
22 "Arkansas Blue Ribbon Commission on Public Education", to be composed of the  
23 following members:

24 (1) Twenty (20) members shall be residents of the state who are  
25 knowledgeable in teaching, education professions, business, labor, industry,  
26 or economic development;

27 (2) Five (5) members shall be parents of children currently  
28 enrolled in a kindergarten through twelve (K-12) public educational  
29 institution in the state;

30 (3) Two (2) members who are the chairs of the House and Senate  
31 Interim Committees on Education, who shall serve exofficio and shall be  
32 nonvoting members;

33 (4) Two (2) members who are the chairs of the House and Senate  
34 Interim Committees on Revenue and Taxation, who shall serve exofficio and  
35 shall be nonvoting members; and

36 (5) Two (2) members who are the chairs of the Joint Budget

1 Committee, who shall serve ex officio and shall be nonvoting members;

2 (b)(1)(A) The Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the  
3 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairperson of the House Interim  
4 Committee on Education, and the Chairperson of the Senate Interim Committee on  
5 Education shall each appoint:

6 (i) Four (4) of the twenty (20) members as required  
7 under subsection (a)(1) of this section; and

8 (ii) One (1) of the five (5) members as required  
9 under subsection (a)(2) of this section.

10 (B) These appointments must be made within six (6) weeks  
11 after the effective date of this act.

12 (2) In the event a vacancy occurs on the commission, the vacancy  
13 shall be filled by the same process as the original appointment.

14 (c) The chairperson of the Senate Interim Committee on Education shall  
15 call the first meeting and serve as chairperson until the time, during the  
16 first meeting, the twenty-five (25) voting members of the board elect from  
17 among themselves a chairperson.

18 (d)(1) In carrying out its functions, the commission may create  
19 advisory committees as it deems necessary.

20 (2) The memberships of these advisory committees may include both  
21 members of the commission, and other persons drawn from sources other than the  
22 commission, all of whom shall serve at the pleasure of the task force.

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24 SECTION 2. Purpose.

25 The purpose of the General Assembly in establishing the Arkansas Blue  
26 Ribbon Commission on Public Education is to:

27 (1) Seek to actively involve the private sector as full and  
28 valued partners in the improvement process;

29 (2) Define the components of the constitutional mandate for "a  
30 general, suitable and efficient system of free public schools";

31 (3) Define an equitable and adequate system of free public  
32 education;

33 (4) Assess current efforts to improve the state's system of  
34 public education; and

35 (5) Propose and recommend legislation for the 2003 Regular  
36 Session of the General Assembly.

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2 SECTION 3. Donations, grants, or legislative appropriations.

3 (a) The research, activities, and other mandates performed by the  
4 commission under the provisions of this act may be funded by donations,  
5 grants, or legislative appropriation.

6 (b) All donations, grants, and appropriations received shall be  
7 accounted for by the commission.

8 (c) The chairperson of the commission may solicit and receive donations  
9 and grants for the purposes of this act.

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11 SECTION 4. Report.

12 The Arkansas Blue Ribbon Commission on Public Education shall submit a  
13 report and its recommendations for any proposed legislation to the House and  
14 Senate Interim Committees on Education, the House and Senate Interim  
15 Committees on Revenue and Taxation, and the Arkansas Legislative Council on or  
16 before July 1, 2002. In addition, the commission shall submit a report and  
17 recommendations for any proposed legislation to the Governor, the State Board  
18 of Education, the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities,  
19 and the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

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21 SECTION 5. Staff support.

22 The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff support for the  
23 Arkansas Blue Ribbon Commission on Public Education. Additional support shall  
24 be provided by all the appropriate agencies of state government upon written  
25 request of the co-chairpersons.

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27 SECTION 6. Per diem.

28 (a) Legislative members of the Arkansas Blue Ribbon Commission on  
29 Public Education shall be entitled to per diem and mileage at the same rate  
30 authorized by law for attendance at meetings of interim committees of the  
31 General Assembly and shall be paid from the same source.

32 (b) Non-legislative members of the task force shall receive per diem  
33 and mileage at the same rate authorized by law for attendance at meetings of  
34 interim committees of the General Assembly, provided appropriated funds are  
35 available.

1 SECTION 7. Expiration.

2 This act shall expire on January 1, 2003.

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4 SECTION 8. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General  
5 Assembly that recent information indicates that the state has severe and  
6 pressing needs regarding the state's system of elementary and secondary  
7 education. In order to fully address all issues relevant to the state's  
8 system of elementary and secondary education, a thorough review of the state's  
9 education system shall immediately be undertaken. Therefore, an emergency is  
10 declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the  
11 preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall become effective on  
12 the date of its approval by the Governor. If the bill is neither approved nor  
13 vetoed by the Governor, it shall become effective on the expiration of the  
14 period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill. If the bill is  
15 vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, it shall become effective  
16 on the date the last house overrides the veto.

17 */s/ Riggs*