

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Second Extraordinary Session, 2003
4

Call Item 4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1007

5 By: Representative Pickett
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF HOURS OF
10 TRAINING THAT MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARDS ARE
11 REQUIRED TO TAKE FOLLOWING ELECTION; AND FOR
12 OTHER PURPOSES.
13

Subtitle

15 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF HOURS
16 OF TRAINING THAT MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL
17 BOARDS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE FOLLOWING
18 ELECTION.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-13-629 is amended to read as follows:
24 6-13-629. Training and instruction - Reimbursement.

25 (a)(1)(A)(i) All Beginning July 1, 2004, all members of a school
26 district board of directors elected ~~at each annual school election for an~~
27 initial or noncontinuous term shall ~~receive~~ obtain a minimum of ~~six (6)~~
28 twelve (12) hours training and instruction ~~in the school laws of this state~~
29 ~~and in the laws governing the powers, duties, and responsibilities of school~~
30 ~~boards on or before March 1 of the calendar year following the election.~~

31 (ii) The training and instruction of board members
32 shall include topics relevant to school laws, school operations, and the
33 powers, duties, and responsibilities of the members of the board of
34 directors, including, but not limited to, legal requirements, role
35 differentiation, financial management, and improving student achievement.

36 (B) By December 31 of each calendar year thereafter, in



1 addition to the twelve (12) hours training requirement in subdivision
2 (a)(1)(A) of this section, new members of a school district board of
3 directors shall also comply with all other training requirements contained in
4 this section for a total of eighteen (18) hours of training obtained between
5 the time of their election and the end of their first full calendar year of
6 office and six (6) hours each calendar year thereafter.

7 (C)(i) Beginning January 1, 2004, and every year
8 thereafter, all existing and re-elected board members shall obtain a minimum
9 of six (6) hours training and instruction by December 31 of each calendar
10 year.

11 (ii) The training and instruction of board members
12 shall include topics relevant to school laws, school operations, and the
13 powers, duties, and responsibilities of the members of the board of directors
14 including, but not limited to, legal requirements, role differentiation,
15 financial management, and improving student achievement.

16 (D) Hours of training and instruction obtained in excess
17 of the minimum requirements may cumulate and be carried over from year to
18 year.

19 (2) This instruction may be received from an institution of
20 higher learning in this state, from instruction sponsored by the Department
21 of Education, or by an in-service training program conducted by the Arkansas
22 School Boards Association.

23 (3) (A) Any school board member completing a course of
24 instruction shall receive a certification of completion.

25 (B) A copy of the certification shall be entered into the
26 minutes of the local school board on which he or she serves and forwarded by
27 the local school board to the department within five (5) days of receipt by
28 the board.

29 ~~(4) Upon having completed the course of instruction meeting the~~
30 ~~minimum requirements of this section, it shall not be necessary for a school~~
31 ~~board member to take an additional course of instruction upon being reelected~~
32 ~~to the school board.~~

33 (4)(A)(i) If any member of a school district board of directors
34 elected for an initial or noncontinuous term fail to obtain the required
35 training under subdivision (a)(1)(A)(i) of this section by March 1 and fails
36 to correct the deficiency with ninety (90) days from the date of receiving

1 notice of the deficiency, a vacancy shall exist on the board of directors by
 2 operation of law from the date of receipt of notification by the
 3 superintendent of the school district.

4 (ii) On or before March 10 of each year, the
 5 department shall notify by certified mail, return receipt requested any
 6 school board member that is deficient on any training requirement under
 7 subdivision (a)(1)(A)(i) of this section.

8 (iii) No vacancy shall exist if granted an extension
 9 due to military service of the member or illness as provided under
 10 subdivision (a)(5) of this section.

11 (B) The department shall immediately notify the
 12 superintendent of the school district by certified mail, return receipt
 13 requested, with a copy to the board president, of the existence of a vacancy
 14 on the board of directors and the resulting vacancy may be filled by
 15 appointment by a majority of the remaining members of the board of directors,
 16 as is provided by law.

17 (5) Should any member of a school district board of directors
 18 fail to obtain the required training under subdivisions (a)(1)(B) or
 19 (a)(1)(C) of this section, the member shall receive a citation from the
 20 department noting the deficiency with a copy mailed to the superintendent and
 21 the local school board.

22 (6)(A) If a member of a school district board of directors is
 23 unable to obtain the required training because of military service of the
 24 member or illness of the member verified by a written sworn statement from
 25 the member's attending physician, the department shall grant a time extension
 26 permitting the member additional time to obtain required training.

27 (B) The issuance of a time extension shall not operate to
 28 remove a member of a school district board of directors from office.

29 (b) Local school district boards of directors are authorized to pay
 30 per diem and other necessary expenses from funds belonging to the school
 31 district and to reimburse school board directors for expenses incurred in
 32 attending in-service workshops, conferences, and other courses of training
 33 and instruction required in completing ~~a minimum of six (6) hours~~ the
 34 training and ~~of~~ instruction as required in subsection (a) of this section.

35 (c) It shall be the responsibility of the department to receive and
 36 maintain records of instructional hours obtained by members of school

1 district boards of directors.

2 (d) The State Board of Education may promulgate rules and regulations
3 consistent with the provisions and intent of this section.

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