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	As Engrossed: H2/17/05		
2	85th General Assembly	A Bill		
3	Regular Session, 2005		HOUSE BILL 1701	
4				
5	By: Representatives Anderso	on, Chesterfield, Jeffrey, Kenney, Mathis, Walt	ers, <i>Roebuck</i>	
6				
7				
8		For An Act To Be Entitled		
9	AN ACT	TO REPEAL COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION	ON; AND	
10	FOR OTHE	ER PURPOSES.		
11				
12		Subtitle		
13	AN AC	CT TO REPEAL COUNTY BOARDS OF		
14	EDUCA	ATION.		
15				
16				
17	BE IT ENACTED BY THE G	GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF AR	KANSAS:	
18				
19		ective July 1, 2006, Arkansas Code		
20	concerning compliance with school laws, is amended to read as follows:			
21	6-10-102. Penal	•		
22	·	employee of the State Board of Educ	•	
23	of education, or school district board of directors who shall willfully fail			
24		ith any provisions of the School La		
25	-	se provided by law shall be deemed	•	
26		be fined in any sum not less than	ten dollars (\$10.00)	
27	nor more than five hun	idred dollars (\$500).		
28				
29		ansas Code § 6-11-118(c)(3)(C), con	icerning the Office of	
30		ended to read as follows:		
31	(C)	Develop and conduct in-service ed		
32	rural teachers, <u>and</u> ad	lministrators , and county board of	-education members;	
33	QDQM=0 0			
34		ansas Code § 6-12-112 is amended to	read as follows:	
35		of district fiscal affairs.		
36	(a) Any school	district is authorized to provide	tor an audit of its	

02-17-2005 08:29 KAC163

- 1 fiscal affairs by a competent accountant.
- 2 (b) Authority is given to the Division of Legislative Audit to audit
 3 the books of any district in the state upon the request of a county board
 4 member, fiscal officer, or district, county, or state school official.
 - (c) In cases of undue demands upon the Division of Legislative Audit for these audits, the office will be considered justified in charging a fee for the service rendered, the fee not to be in excess of payments made for help employed in the audit in addition to the legally provided personnel of the office.

10

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

5

6

7

8

9

- SECTION 4. Arkansas Code \S 6-12-114 is amended to read as follows. 12 6-12-114. Implementation.
- (a) Except as set forth in subdivision (a)(2) of this subsection, By

 June 30, 2005 all county boards of education in existence prior to July 1,

 2000, shall transfer all records, written or electronic, to either the

 respective county clerk, the respective county quorum court, the State Board

 of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities, the Department of Workforce

 Education, the State Board of Education, or the Department of Education,

 whichever may be appropriate.
 - (2)(A) If a county had a full-time county school supervisor or county board of education designee on January 1, 1999, who was not employed more than fifty percent (50%) of the time in other employment or duties other than as county school supervisor or county board designee, then that individual may continue acting as county school supervisor or county board designee with all the duties, responsibilities, and rights appertaining until:
- 27 (i) The county board abolishes itself;
- 28 (ii) The county school supervisor or county board
 29 designee is terminated by the board; or
- 30 (iii) The county school supervisor or county board
 31 designee leaves the position.
- 32 (B) If subdivision (a)(2)(A) of this section controls,
 33 then the county board shall also exist until such time that the office is
 34 dissolved under subdivision (a)(2)(A) of this section.
- 35 (C) If subdivision (a)(2)(A) of this section controls, it 36 is the intent of the General Assembly that the funding of the county board,

as it existed on or before January 1, 1999, shall continue until such time that the office is dissolved under subdivision (a)(2)(A) of this section.

- (b)(1) Any and all funds received via an award or grant under the control of the county board <u>that is</u> abolished <u>under subsection</u> (a) of this <u>section</u>, the county board designee, or the county school supervisor whose position was abolished <u>under this subsection</u> (a) of this section, the use of which is restricted by the terms of the award or grant under which the moneys were received, shall revert to the agency that awarded the funds unless otherwise specified in the terms of the award or grant.
- (2) Any and all funds under the control of any county board <u>that</u> <u>is</u> abolished under subsection (a) of this section, county board designee, or county school supervisor whose position was abolished under subsection (a) of this section shall first be used to satisfy all legal debts and obligations of the county board, and all remaining funds shall revert to the common or general school fund of the respective county for redistribution to the school districts domiciled in that county in accordance with existing law.
- (c)(1) Any and all real and personal property belonging to the county board <u>that is</u> abolished <u>under subsection</u> (a) of this section shall first be sold at public auction if after the implementation of subsection (b) of this section there are still legal debts and obligations. If any excess moneys from such an auction exist after the payments of legal debts and obligations, those excess moneys shall be distributed according to subdivision (b)(2) of this section.
- (2) If no legal debts or obligations exist after the implementation of subsection (b) of this section, any and all real and personal property of the county board shall become the property of the local school district that contains the county seat of government until such time that all school districts domiciled in the county have entered into a written agreement as to the disposition of the real and personal property of the county board. The written agreement must be finalized within twelve (12) months after July 1, 2000 July 1, 2005.
- (d) The provisions in subdivision (a)(1), subsection (b), and subsection (c) of this section shall not include or apply to any funds, written or electronic records, or real or personal property, or both real and personal property, belonging to or purchased with funding for adult education programs or general educational development testing centers supported through

1 state or federal adult education funds, or both state and federal adult 2 education funds. All such funds, written or electronic records, or real or personal property, or both real and personal property, including applicable 3 4 real estate titles, will be transferred to the State Board of Workforce 5 Education and Career Opportunities or any eligible entity approved by the 6 board. 7 8 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-12-116 is amended to read as follows: 9 6-12-116. Limitation on civil actions. (a) Any civil action brought against any abolished county board of 10 11 education or its members, school supervisor, designee, or employee in his or 12 her official capacity must be commenced within one (1) year after the abolishment of the county board of education or one (1) year after the cause 13 of action accrues, whichever occurs first. A cause of action accrues on the 14 15 date of occurrence of the violation regardless of the aggrieved party's lack 16 of knowledge of the violation. 17 (b)(1) Beginning on the effective date of this subsection (b), notwithstanding any other provision of law, no county board of education or 18 county supervisor shall enter into or renew any personal, professional, 19 20 employment, or other service contract or any other contract without the prior 21 written approval of the State Board of Education or the Director of the 22 Department of Education. 23 (2) Any personal, professional, employment, or other service 24 contract or any other contract entered into by a county board of education or 25 county supervisor on behalf of the county board on or after the effective 26 date of this subsection shall be void unless such contract or contractual 27 obligation was approved in writing by the Director of the Department of 28 Education. 29 30 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-12-301 is repealed effective July 1, 31 2005. 32 6-12-301. Creation - Members generally. 33 (a) If a county has a county school supervisor or county board of 34 education designee as set forth in § 6-12-201 (repealed), the county shall 35 also have a county board of education composed of five (5) members. (b) The members of county boards of education shall be qualified 36

1 electors who are known for their good moral character, honesty, industry, 2 public spirit, and interest in education and who do not hold any salaried or fee office of the state or any political subdivision thereof. 3 4 (c) The term of office for a member of the county board shall be five 5 (5) years, provided that any member of the county board shall hold office 6 until a successor has been elected or appointed and qualified. 7 (d) A member may succeed himself or herself. 8 (e) The county board of election commissioners shall notify each 9 person elected or appointed as a member of the county board in accordance 10 with the provisions of this chapter. 11 (f) A change of residence from the county zone shall automatically 12 disqualify the member from serving out the term for which the member was 13 elected. (g)(1)(A) If a vacancy occurs on the county board, the vacancy shall 14 15 be filled by a vote of a majority of the remaining members. 16 (B) If the remaining members fail to fill a vacancy within sixty (60) days after the date of vacancy, the vacancy shall be filled by 17 appointment by the county judge. 18 (C) If, as a result of several vacancies, only a minority 19 20 of the county board remains, then the county judge shall fill all the 21 vacancies by appointment. 22 (2) Appointed members shall have the same qualifications as 23 elected members, and each shall serve a full five-year term. 24 (h) The members of the county board shall serve without compensation 25 but shall be allowed actual expenses incurred in traveling to official 26 meetings of the county board and in the performance of the official business 27 of the county board. The amount of one hundred dollars (\$100), or so much thereof as is needed, shall be allowed annually from the county general 28 29 school fund for this purpose. If, in the judgment of the county judge and the 30 unanimous opinion of the members of the county board, additional funds are 31 necessary, an additional one hundred dollars (\$100) may be allowed annually. 32 (i) Any person elected or appointed to serve as a member of the county 33 board on or before July 1, 2000, may complete the term for which the person was elected and shall hold office until a successor has been appointed and 34

35

qualified.

1 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 6-12-302 is repealed effective July 1, 2 2005. 6-12-302. Members - Counties with only one school district. 3 4 (a) In counties having only one (1) school district, the board of 5 directors of that district shall act as the county board of education. 6 (b)(1) Each county board of education may hire the staff it deems 7 necessary and establish the salaries for that staff. 8 (2) The county board shall not hire a county school supervisor 9 or county board designee after the termination of employment of the county school supervisor or county board designee employed after December 31, 1998. 10 11 12 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 6-12-303 is repealed effective July 1, 13 2005. 6-12-303. Oath. 14 15 (a) Within fifteen (15) days after the election or appointment, each 16 elected or appointed member of the county board of education shall subscribe 17 in writing to the following oath: 18 19 , do hereby solemnly swear or affirm that I will support 20 the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of 21 Arkansas, and that I will not be financially interested, directly or 22 indirectly, in any contract made by the county board of which I am a member, 23 or by any board of school directors of the county, except for contracts for 24 materials bought on open competitive bid and let to the lowest bidder 25 conforming to specifications; and that I will faithfully discharge the duties 26 of a member of the county board of education, upon which I am about to enter." 27 28 (b) The county clerk, upon receipt of the oaths for the county board 29 members, shall immediately commission these persons, and they shall enter at 30 once upon their duties as members of the county board. 31 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 6-12-304 is repealed effective July 1, 32 33 2005. 34 6-12-304. Meetings. 35 (a) The county board of education shall meet on the fourth Tuesday of 36 March, June, September, and December of each year and at other times as

6

meetings may be adjourned to or on call of the chairman, the county school 1 2 supervisor or county board designee, or any three (3) members of the county 3 board. 4 (b) Notice of called meetings must be given in writing to each member 5 of the county board. 6 7 SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 6-12-305 is repealed effective July 1, 8 2005. 9 6-12-305. Organization. During the meeting on the fourth Tuesday of September, the members of 10 11 the county board of education shall elect one (1) of its members as chair, 12 and the county board shall designate an ex officio secretary of the board. 13 14 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 6-12-306 is repealed effective July 1, 15 2005. 16 6-12-306. Powers and duties. 17 (a) It shall be the duty of the county board of education to supervise and direct all of its employees in the performance of their duties. 18 19 (b) The county board's duties shall also include, but shall not be limited to, the following: 20 21 (1) To cause to be set aside from funds in the county general 22 school fund amounts necessary for the expenses of the county board and of any 23 designee; 24 (2) To appoint new members when a vacancy occurs on the county 25 board: 26 (3) To terminate the position of the county supervisor or county 27 board designee; 28 (4) To abolish the county board upon the termination of the 29 county supervisor or county board designee; and 30 (5) To transfer to the respective county clerk, the respective 31 county quorum court, the State Board of Workforce Education and Career 32 Opportunities, the Department of Workforce Education, the State Board of 33 Education, or the Department of Education, whichever may be appropriate, all 34 records of the county board upon abolishment. 35 (c) In any county in which a county board is still in existence, the 36 county board may enter into a written agreement with other county officials

1 that would allow the county board or its employees to undertake any or all 2 duties of county officials as they pertain to education or school districts administered in the county. 3 4 5 SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 6-12-307 is repealed effective July 1, 6 2005. 7 6-12-307. Appeal - Bond. 8 (a) Any person being a party to the record or proceeding in a matter 9 brought before any county board of education who feels aggrieved by any final order or decision of the county board may prosecute an appeal from any final 10 11 order or decision, provided the person shall within thirty (30) days from the 12 date of the final order or decision complained of: 13 (1) Make an affidavit that the appeal taken from the final order 14 or decision of the county board is not taken for the purpose of delay; and (2) Enter into a bond with good and sufficient surety thereon in 15 16 the sum as shall be ordered by the county board, not to exceed twice the 17 amount involved in the appeal. Where no money or property is involved in the proceeding from which the appeal is prosecuted, the appeal bond should be 18 19 given by the appellant in a sum that will protect the appellee and the county board from payment of cost, which amount shall be endorsed by the secretary 20 21 of the county board on the affidavit of the appellant in a sum to be fixed by 22 the county board. 23 (b) The appeal herein provided shall be to the circuit court of the 24 district or division in which the county board shall be sitting at the time of the final decision or order complained of. 25 26 27 SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 6-12-308 is repealed effective July 1, 2.8 2005. 6-12-308. Credentials. 29 30 (a)(1) If a county had a full-time county school supervisor or county board of education designee on January 1, 1999, who was not employed more 31 32 than fifty percent (50%) of the time in other employment or duties other than 33 as county school supervisor or county board of education designee, the county 34 board may continue to employ that person to be county school supervisor or 35 county board designee; and 36 (2)(A) The county board may contract with that person for

1 service for a term of one (1) or two (2) years, subject to reemployment, 2 provided that no spouse of a member of the county board nor any person related within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity to any member 3 4 of the county board shall be eligible for employment. 5 (B) Any employment contract between the county and a 6 county school supervisor or county board designee shall contain a provision 7 to allow termination of the contract without penalty if the position is 8 terminated because the county board is abolished. 9 (b) The county boards of education shall have the power and authority 10 to abolish the office of the county school supervisor or county board 11 designee in their respective counties. 12 (c) Upon the termination of employment of the county school supervisor 13 or county board designee whose employment was continued pursuant to the 14 conditions set forth in subsection (a) of this section or upon the 15 abolishment of the office of the county school supervisor or county board 16 designee in their respective counties, the county board shall not replace the 17 county school supervisor or county board designee, and the county board of education shall be abolished. 18 19 20 SECTION 14. Arkansas Code § 6-12-309 is repealed effective July 1, 21 2005. 22 6-12-309. Duties of county school supervisor or county board of 23 education designee. 24 The county school supervisor or county board of education designee shall devote his or her entire time to the position of county school 25 26 supervisor or county board designee, which position includes the faithful 27 performance of the following duties and other duties as may be properly 28 delegated to the supervisor or designee: 29 (1) The county school supervisor or county board designee shall 30 be the executive officer of the county board and shall, if possible, attend 31 all meetings of the county board but shall not have the right to vote; 32 (2) As ex officio secretary of the county board, the county 33 school supervisor or county board designee shall: 34 (A) Keep a record of all meetings and of all business 35 transactions of the county board and shall, together with the chair of the board, sign the record at the close of each business meeting; 36

1	(B)(i) Keep a permanent copy of the record of the county
2	board meetings and prepare a copy to be filed with the county clerk and kept
3	by the county clerk in the same manner in which the county school supervisor
4	or county board designee is required to keep the permanent records of the
5	county.
6	(ii) The clerk shall be entitled to no fee for the
7	filing or keeping of the record; and
8	(C) Keep a permanent file of all necessary papers and
9	legal transactions of the county board and, when called upon to do so, shall
10	furnish anyone entitled thereto a certified copy of the file;
11	(3) The county school supervisor or county board designee shall
12	record the certificates of teachers as required by law;
13	(4) The county school supervisor or county board designee shall
14	be a representative of the State Board of Education and shall perform duties
15	as may be required by the state board;
16	(5) The county school supervisor or county board designee shall
17	keep a record of the contracts made with teachers;
18	(6) The county school supervisor or county board designee shall
19	cooperate with the Department of Education in carrying out the budgetary
20	regulations and procedures pertaining to county boards of education as are
21	now, or may hereafter be, prescribed by the state board or by law; and
22	(7) The county school supervisor or county board designee may
23	keep in the county school supervisor's or county board designee's office and
24	file with the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System and
25	the State Board of Education not later than October 15 of each year a list of
26	all teachers employed in the county for the ensuing year, setting forth the
27	type of certificate held by each teacher, the teacher's monthly contract
28	salary, whether the teacher is a member of the system, and other information
29	as the state board may deem necessary.
30	
31	SECTION 15. Arkansas Code § 6-12-310 is repealed effective July 1,
32	2005.
33	6-12-310. Failure to perform duties.
34	The failure of the county school supervisor or county board of
35	education designee to perform any duties provided by law or any which may be
36	imposed upon the county school supervisor or county board designee by the

1 county board shall be sufficient cause for the county school supervisor's or 2 county board designee's discharge and the termination of the county school supervisor's or county board designee's contract. 3 4 5 SECTION 16. Arkansas Code § 6-12-311 is repealed effective July 1, 6 2005. 7 6-12-311. Salary. 8 (a) Each county board of education is authorized to determine, at its 9 discretion, the salary of the county school supervisor or county board of 10 education designee and allowances for travel, clerical, office, and other 11 expenses. 12 (b) For this purpose, the chair shall call a meeting in June each year 13 for the consideration of these matters. 14 (c) All allowances for office expense, travel, and clerical help shall 15 be based upon detailed budgets submitted by the county school supervisor or 16 county board designee and approved by the county board. 17 (d) With the approval of the county board, the county school 18 supervisor or county board designee is authorized to select clerical and 19 other assistants as are necessary. 20 (e) The allowances to the county school supervisor or county board 21 designee and members of the county board for travel expense, meals, and 22 hotels shall not be in excess of the allowance for state employees. 23 (f) All funds provided in this section shall be set aside from the 24 unapportioned county general school fund to a special fund by the county 25 treasurer. Payments from this special fund shall be made only upon 26 presentation of invoice statements, itemized expense accounts, and payrolls 27 upon vouchers signed by the county school supervisor or county board designee 28 and the chairman of the county board when vouchers properly executed are 29 presented to the county clerk and approved by the county school supervisor or 30 county board designee and the chairman of the county board. 31 32 SECTION 17. Arkansas Code § 6-12-312 is repealed effective July 1, 33 2005. 34 6-12-312. Spouse as employee. 35 No spouse of any member of the county board of education or of the 36 county school supervisor or county board designee nor any person related

1 within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity to any member of the 2 county board or to the county school supervisor or county board designee shall be eligible for employment as clerical help in the office of the county 3 4 school supervisor or county board designee. 5 6 SECTION 18. Arkansas Code § 6-12-313 is repealed effective July 1, 7 2005. 8 6-12-313. Candidacy for public office. 9 The county school supervisor or county board of education designee shall not be a candidate for public office during the term of the county 10 11 school supervisor's or county board designee's contract and shall not be 12 granted leave of absence for that purpose. 13 14 SECTION 19. Arkansas Code § 6-12-314 is repealed effective July 1, 15 2005. 16 6-12-314. Office at county seat. 17 The quorum court shall supply the county school supervisor or county board of education designee with a suitably equipped office at the county 18 19 seat. 20 21 SECTION 20. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 12, Subchapter 3 is amended 22 to add an additional section to read as follows: 23 6-12-315. Abolished. 24 All county boards of education, and any personnel positions associated therewith, are abolished effective July 1, 2005. 25 26 27 SECTION 21. Effective July 1, 2005, Arkansas Code § 21-1-602(5), 28 concerning definitions related to public employees, is amended to read as 29 follows: 30 "Public employer" means any of the following: 31 (A) An agency, department, board, commission, division, 32 office, bureau, council, authority, or other instrumentality of the State of 33 Arkansas, including the offices of the various Arkansas elected 34 constitutional officers and the General Assembly and its agencies, bureaus, 35 and divisions: 36 (B) A state-supported college, university, technical

1	college, community college or other institution of higher education, or		
2	department, division, or agency of a state institution of higher education;		
3	(C) The Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, the		
4	Administrative Office of the Courts, the circuit courts, and prosecuting		
5	attorneys' offices;		
6	(D) An office, department, commission, council, agency,		
7	board, bureau, committee, corporation, or other instrumentality of a county		
8	government or a municipality, or a district court, a county subordinate		
9	service district, a municipally owned utility, or a regional or joint		
10	governing body of one (1) or more counties or municipalities; or		
11	(E) A county board of education or a public school		
12	district, school, or an office or department of a public school district in		
13	Arkansas;		
14			
15	SECTION 22. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the		
16	General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the services of the county		
17	boards of education are no longer needed by the school districts; that there		
18	will be no funding available for the operation of the county boards of		
19	education; and that this act is immediately necessary because county boards		
20	of education need sufficient authority to transfer functions, duties, and		
21	records prior the end of the fiscal year. Therefore, an emergency is declared		
22	to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the		
23	public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:		
24	(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;		
25	(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,		
26	the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the		
27	bill; or		
28	(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is		
29	overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.		
30			
31	/s/ Anderson, et al		
32			
33			
34			
35			
36			

13