

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 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2853

4
5 By: Representative Jeffrey
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO ALLOW CERTAIN ISOLATED SCHOOLS TO BE
10 CLOSED; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12
13 AN ACT TO ALLOW CERTAIN ISOLATED SCHOOLS
14 TO BE CLOSED.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-13-1603(f) through (l), concerning
20 administrative reorganization, are amended to read as follows:

21 ~~(f) No school facility in a school district included in the~~
22 ~~consolidation list required by § 6-13-1602 shall be closed by the state board~~
23 ~~or a local school board until after completion of an assessment of public~~
24 ~~school facilities by the Joint Committee on Educational Facilities as~~
25 ~~required by Act 1181 of 2003, but in no event shall any be closed prior to~~
26 ~~June 1, 2005.~~

27 ~~(g)~~(f) No administratively consolidated or annexed school district
28 shall have more than one (1) superintendent.

29 ~~(h)~~(g) No school district administratively consolidated with a school
30 district designated by the state board as being in academic or fiscal
31 distress shall be subject to academic or fiscal distress sanctions for a
32 period of three (3) years from the effective date of consolidation unless:

33 (1) The school district fails to meet minimum teacher salary
34 requirements; or

35 (2) The school district fails to comply with the Standards for
36 Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools issued by the department.



1 ~~(i)~~(h) Noncontiguous school districts may voluntarily consolidate if
2 the facilities and physical plant of each school district:

3 (1) Are within the same county, and the state board approves the
4 administrative consolidation; or

5 (2) Are not within the same county, and the state board approves
6 the administrative consolidation or annexation and finds that:

7 (A) The consolidation or annexation will result in the
8 overall improvement in the educational benefit to students in all of the
9 school districts involved; or

10 (B) The consolidation or annexation will provide a
11 significant advantage in transportation costs or service to all of the school
12 districts involved.

13 ~~(j)~~(i) Contiguous districts may administratively consolidate even if
14 they are not in the same county.

15 ~~(k)~~(j) The state board shall promulgate rules to facilitate the
16 administration of this subchapter.

17 ~~(l)~~(k) The provisions of § 6-13-1406 shall govern the board of
18 directors of each resulting or receiving school district created under this
19 subchapter.
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21 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-20-602 is amended to read as follows:
22 6-20-602. Isolated schools.

23 (a) "Isolated school" means a school within a school district that:

24 (1) Prior to administrative consolidation or annexation under
25 this section, § 6-13-1601 et seq., and § 6-13-1405(a)(5) qualified as an
26 isolated school district under § 6-20-601; and

27 (2) Is subject to administrative consolidation or annexation
28 under this section, § 6-13-1601 et seq., and § 6-13-1405(a)(5).

29 (b) Any isolated school within a resulting or receiving district shall
30 remain open unless::

31 (1) The resulting school district has a three-quarter average
32 daily membership of less than twelve hundred (1200) students;

33 (2) The isolated school has a three-quarter average daily
34 membership of less than two hundred eighty (280) students in the 2003-3004
35 school year; and

36 (3) An the school district receives less than five hundred

1 dollars (\$500) per student for isolated funding under §6-20-603.

2 (c) Funding for isolated school districts shall be expended by the
3 resulting or receiving district only on the operation, maintenance, and other
4 expenses of the isolated schools within the resulting or receiving district
5 if the isolated school remains open.

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