

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: S1/20/05 S2/10/05 H2/25/05

2 85th General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2005

SENATE BILL 2

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5 By: Senators Womack, G. Jeffress

6 By: Representatives Key, Norton, Cooper, Walters, Everett

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For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO PROVIDE PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSE
11 CREDIT FOR PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL SPORTS
12 ACTIVITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

13

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Subtitle

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AN ACT TO PROVIDE PHYSICAL EDUCATION
16 COURSE CREDIT FOR PARTICIPATION IN
17 SCHOOL SPORTS ACTIVITIES.

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

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22 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1 is amended*
23 *to add an additional section to read as follows:*

24 6-17-137. Physical education credit for physical activity courses.

25 (a) For the purpose of this act the following terms shall mean:

26 (1) "Content standards" means those curriculum course content
27 standards identified and set out in the Department of Education Curriculum
28 Frameworks;

29 (2) "Curriculum frameworks" means those content-specific
30 requirements identified and mandated pursuant to § 6-15-1501 et seq. and the
31 Arkansas Standards of Accreditation;

32 (3) "Organized physical activity course" means a school course
33 taught by an instructor that is licensed or qualified in physical education
34 pursuant to the rules of the State Board of Education and is a course that
35 involves body movement produced by skeletal muscles resulting in energy
36 expenditures through organized group or class activities; and



1 (4) "Statement of assurance" means a written statement to be
2 filed by the superintendent or chief academic officer by October 1 of each
3 school year with the Department of Education which ensures that the organized
4 physical activity course is in compliance with the physical education course
5 content standards and curriculum frameworks as required pursuant to § 6-15-
6 1505 and the requirements of subdivision (b)(2).

7 (b) Beginning in the 2005-2006 school year, a student in grades nine
8 through twelve (9-12) participating in and successfully completing an
9 organized physical activity course in his or her school shall be eligible to
10 receive one-half (1/2) unit of physical education credit required for
11 graduation if:

12 (1) The organized physical activity course is aligned to the
13 Department of Education's physical education course content standards and
14 curriculum frameworks; and

15 (2) The organized physical activity course is verified by the
16 superintendent of the school district or the chief administrative officer of
17 an open-enrollment charter school who files a written statement of assurance
18 with the Department of Education by October 1 of the school year as required
19 under § 6-15-1505 stating that:

20 (A) The instructor of the organized physical
21 activity course is licensed or qualified in physical education pursuant to
22 the rules of the State Board of Education;

23 (B) The organized physical activity course is
24 aligned to the Department of Education's physical education course content
25 standards and curriculum frameworks; and

26 (C) The organized physical activity course is
27 subject to the provisions of § 6-18-501 et seq.

28 (c) A student is limited to only the one-half (1/2) unit of physical
29 education credit for graduation for the organized physical activity course,
30 and the student shall not be allowed any other credit toward graduation for
31 that same course.

32 (d) A student must complete the entire semester and pass the physical
33 activity course to receive the one-half (1/2) unit of physical education
34 credit required for graduation.

35 (e) The physical activity course shall take place during the regular
36 school day to qualify for physical education credit, except for those

1 physical activity courses outside the regular school day which are listed on
2 the school district's master schedule.

3 (f)(1) If it is determined by the Department of Education that any
4 organized physical activity course allowed to be used for physical education
5 credit by a student does not meet the Department of Education's physical
6 education course content standards and curriculum frameworks, as required
7 under this section, the school district or open-enrollment charter school may
8 be cited or placed in probationary violation of the Standards for
9 Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools under The Quality Education Act of
10 2003, § 6-15-201 et seq.

11 (2) If it is determined by the Department of Education that a
12 superintendent or chief academic officer or any other certified personnel has
13 knowingly provided false or misleading information in the statement of
14 assurance required under this section, the State Board of Education may take
15 appropriate action on the license of that individual pursuant to § 6-17-410.

16 (g) The Department of Education is authorized to monitor, review
17 documentation, request information, or require additional reports, from
18 public schools, school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, or school
19 personnel to enforce compliance with the requirements of this section.

20 (h) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, it is recognized
21 that organized physical activity courses as set forth under subsection (b)
22 are not a requirement for an adequate education and shall not be considered a
23 core academic requirement of the State of Arkansas or public schools
24 districts.

25 (i) The State Board of Education may promulgate rules necessary to
26 implement this section.

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28 /s/ Womack, et al
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