

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

SENATE BILL 391

4
5 By: Senator Laverty
6 By: Representative Ragland

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO PROVIDE SPECIAL NEEDS FUNDING FOR
11 CERTAIN ISOLATED SCHOOL AREAS; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES.

Subtitle

15 AN ACT TO PROVIDE SPECIAL NEEDS FUNDING
16 FOR CERTAIN ISOLATED SCHOOL AREAS.

18
19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

20
21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 20, Subchapter 6 is amended
22 to add an additional section to read as follows:

23 6-20-604. Additional funding.

24 (a)(1) The General Assembly finds that school consolidations and
25 annexations required by Act 60 of the 2nd Extraordinary Session of the
26 Eighty-Fourth General Assembly and new requirements under the Standards for
27 Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools adopted by the State Board of
28 Education have disproportionately increased the cost of operations for school
29 districts that contained isolated schools.

30 (2) The General Assembly further finds that school districts
31 which contained isolated schools need additional funding to provide an
32 adequate education for students attending schools in those districts.

33 (b) A school district shall receive special needs funding as set forth
34 under subsections (c) through (e) of this section if the school district
35 meets the following requirements of subsections (c) through (e) of this
36 section, and:



1 (1) The school district was consolidated or annexed under Act 60
2 of the Second Extraordinary Session of the Eight-Fourth General Assembly;

3 (2) The local board of directors by majority vote determines
4 that a school within its district that is an isolated school area for grades
5 kindergarten through twelve (K-12) listed in § 6-20-603 is so isolated that
6 to combine its operation to one district campus would be impractical or
7 unwise; and

8 (3) The Director of the Department of Education determines that
9 to combine the isolated school's operation to one district campus would:

10 (A) Cause students riding a school bus to have a minimum
11 travel time in excess of one hour and thirty minutes; or

12 (B) Place students in harm's way due to a high-risk travel
13 route based on the topography or geographic location of the district.

14 (c) A school district meeting the requirements of subsection (b) of
15 this section shall receive an additional amount equal to twenty percent (20%)
16 of the foundation funding received by the school district under § 6-20-
17 2305(a)(2) for the operation of the isolated school areas if the district
18 has:

19 (1) School facilities open for grades kindergarten through
20 twelve (K-12) in two (2) or more isolated school areas listed in § 6-20-603;

21 (2) A third-quarter average daily membership of five hundred
22 (500) or less in the preceeding school year; and

23 (3) A density ratio of one and three-tenths (1.3) students or
24 less per square mile.

25 (d) A school district meeting the requirements of subsection (b) of
26 this section shall receive an additional amount equal to fifteen percent
27 (15%) of the foundation funding received by the school district under § 6-20-
28 2305(a)(2) for the operation of the isolated school areas if the district
29 has:

30 (1) School facilities open for grades kindergarten through
31 twelve (K-12) in two (2) or more isolated school areas listed in § 6-20-603;

32 (2) A third-quarter average daily membership of five hundred and
33 one (501) to one thousand (1,000) in the preceeding school year; and

34 (3) A density ratio of one and four tenths (1.4) students or
35 less per square mile.

36 (e) A school district meeting the requirements of subsection (b) of

1 this section shall receive an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the
2 foundation funding received by the school district under § 6-20-2305(a)(2)
3 based on the average daily membership of the isolated school area under § 6-
4 20-2305(a)(2) if the district has school facilities open for grades
5 kindergarten through twelve (K-12) in one (1) or more isolated school areas
6 listed in § 6-20-603.

7 (f) A school district eligible for special needs funding under this
8 section shall continue to be eligible to receive isolated school funding
9 provided under § 6-20-603.

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36