

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: S2/21/05 S2/24/05 S3/10/05*

2 85th General Assembly

# A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2005

SENATE BILL 391

4

5 By: Senators Laverty, Bryles, *G. Jeffress*

6 By: Representative Ragland

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## For An Act To Be Entitled

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*AN ACT TO PROVIDE SPECIAL NEEDS FUNDING FOR*

11

*CERTAIN ISOLATED SCHOOLS; TO PROVIDE SPECIAL*

12

*NEEDS FUNDING FOR CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH A*

13

*LOW STUDENT DENSITY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

14

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## Subtitle

16

*AN ACT TO PROVIDE SPECIAL NEEDS FUNDING*

17

*FOR CERTAIN ISOLATED SCHOOLS; AND TO*

18

*PROVIDE SPECIAL NEEDS FUNDING FOR*

19

*CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH A LOW*

20

*STUDENT DENSITY.*

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22

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

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25 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 20, Subchapter 6 is*

26 *amended to add an additional section to read as follows:*

27 *6-20-604. Additional funding.*

28 *(a)(1) The new requirements under the Standards for Accreditation of*

29 *Arkansas Public Schools adopted by the State Board of Education have*

30 *disproportionately increased the cost of operations for school districts that*

31 *contained isolated schools.*

32 *(2) The General Assembly further finds that school districts*

33 *which contained isolated schools need additional funding to provide an*

34 *adequate education for students attending schools in those districts.*

35 *(b) A school district shall receive special needs funding as set forth*

36 *under subsections (c) through (e) of this section if the school district*



1 meets the following requirements of subsections (c) through (e) of this  
2 section, and:

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

5 (2) The local board of directors by majority vote determines  
6 that the isolated school is so isolated that to combine its operation to one  
7 (1) district campus would be impractical or unwise; and

8 (3) The isolated school or district:

9 (A) Filed an affidavit of isolated school status with the  
10 State Board of Education during the consolidation or annexation process and  
11 the facts of the affidavit are verified by the State Board of Education, or  
12 its designee, to meet the requirements of 6-20-601;

13 (B) Filed an affidavit of isolated school status with the  
14 State Board of Education after the consolidation or annexation process or the  
15 effective date of this section and the facts of the affidavit are verified by  
16 the State Board of Education, or its designee, to meet the requirements of 6-  
17 20-601; or

18 (C) The school district would have qualified under § 6-20-  
19 601, but for the average daily membership requirements of three hundred fifty  
20 students or less.

21 (c) A school district meeting the requirements of subsection (b) of  
22 this section shall receive an additional amount equal to twenty percent (20%)  
23 of the foundation funding received by the school district under § 6-20-  
24 2305(a)(2) for the operation of the isolated school areas if the district  
25 has:

26 (1) School facilities open for grades kindergarten through  
27 twelve (K-12) in two (2) or more isolated schools meeting the requirements of  
28 subsection (b) of this section;

29 (2) A three-quarter average daily membership of five hundred  
30 (500) or less in the preceding school year; and

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

33 (d) A school district meeting the requirements of subsection (b) of  
34 this section shall receive an additional amount equal to fifteen percent  
35 (15%) of the foundation funding received by the school district under § 6-20-  
36 2305(a)(2) for the operation of the isolated school areas if the district

1 has:

2 (1) School facilities open for grades kindergarten through  
3 twelve (K-12) in two (2) or more isolated schools meeting the requirements of  
4 subsection (b) of this section;

5 (2) A three-quarter average daily membership of five hundred and  
6 one (501) to one thousand (1,000) in the preceding school year; and

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

9 (e) A school district meeting the requirements of subsection (b) of  
10 this section shall receive an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the  
11 foundation funding received by the school district under § 6-20-2305(a)(2)  
12 based on the three-quarter average daily membership of the isolated school  
13 area under § 6-20-2305(a)(2) if the district has school facilities open for  
14 grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) in one (1) or more isolated schools  
15 meeting the requirements of subsection (b) of this section.

16 (f) A school district shall receive an amount equal to ten percent  
17 (10%) of the foundation funding received by the school district under § 6-20-  
18 2305(a)(2) based on the three-quarter average daily membership of the school  
19 district if the district has a three-quarter average daily membership of less  
20 than five hundred (500) students and a density ratio of two (2) students per  
21 square mile.

22 (g) A school district eligible for special needs funding under this  
23 section shall continue to be eligible to receive isolated school funding  
24 provided under § 6-20-603.

25 (h)(1) A school district eligible to receive isolated funding under §  
26 6-20-603 shall continue to receive partial funding under § 6-20-603 even if  
27 part of the isolated schools are closed, but a school district shall not  
28 receive funding under § 6-20-603 for any isolated schools or parts thereof  
29 that have been closed by the local board of directors.

30 (2) If part of the isolated schools in a district are  
31 closed, the school district shall receive funding under § 6-20-603 based on  
32 the three-quarter average daily membership of the isolated schools or parts  
33 thereof that remain open in the district.

34  
35 /s/ Laverty  
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