

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 S3/15/05

2 85th General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2005

SENATE BILL 391

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5 By: Senators Lavery, 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

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CERTAIN ISOLATED SCHOOLS; TO PROVIDE SPECIAL

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NEEDS FUNDING FOR CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH A

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LOW STUDENT DENSITY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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Subtitle

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AN ACT TO PROVIDE SPECIAL NEEDS FUNDING

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FOR CERTAIN ISOLATED SCHOOLS; AND TO

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PROVIDE SPECIAL NEEDS FUNDING FOR

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CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH A LOW

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STUDENT DENSITY.

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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) Filed an affidavit of isolated school status with the
19 State Board of Education after the consolidation or annexation process or the
20 effective date of this section and the facts of the affidavit are verified by
21 the State Board of Education, or its designee, to meet the requirements of 6-
22 20-601 but for the average daily membership requirements of three hundred
23 fifty (350) students or less.

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

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

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

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

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

1 this section shall receive an additional amount equal to fifteen percent
2 (15%) of the foundation funding received by the school district under § 6-20-
3 2305(a)(2) for the operation of the isolated school areas if the district
4 has:

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

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

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

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

19 (f) A school district shall receive an amount equal to five percent
20 (5%) of the foundation funding received by the school district under § 6-20-
21 2305(a)(2) based on the three-quarter average daily membership of the school
22 district if the district:

23 (1) Has a three-quarter average daily membership of less
24 than five hundred (500) students;

25 (2) A density ratio of two (2) students or less per
26 square mile; and

27 (3) The school district received no less than two (2)
28 isolated schools that meet the requirements of § 6-20-601 because of
29 consolidation or annexation under Act 60 of the Second Extraordinary Session
30 of the Eighty-Fourth General Assembly.

31 (g) A school district eligible for special needs funding under this
32 section shall continue to be eligible to receive isolated school funding
33 provided under § 6-20-603, but shall only receive funding under one (1) of
34 the categories established under subsections (c) through (f) in this section.

35 (h)(1) A school district eligible to receive isolated funding under §
36 6-20-603 shall continue to receive partial funding under § 6-20-603 even if

1 part of the isolated schools are closed, but a school district shall not
2 receive funding under § 6-20-603 for any isolated schools or parts thereof
3 that have been closed by the local board of directors.

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

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9 /s/ Lavery
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