

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 S3/17/05 S3/22/05

2 85th General Assembly

# A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2005

SENATE BILL 391

4  
5 By: Senators Lavery, Bryles, G. Jeffress

6 By: Representative Ragland

## 7 8 9 For An Act To Be Entitled

10 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 15 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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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, annexed, or received  
4 an annexed school under Act 60 of the Second Extraordinary Session of the  
5 Eight-Fourth General Assembly;

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

9 (3) The isolated school or district:

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

14 (B) Filed an affidavit of isolated school status with the  
15 State Board of Education after the consolidation or annexation process or the  
16 effective date of this section and the facts of the affidavit are verified by  
17 the State Board of Education, or its designee, to meet the requirements of 6-  
18 20-601; or

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

25 (c) A school district meeting the requirements of subsection (b) of  
26 this section shall receive an additional amount equal to twenty percent (20%)  
27 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 schools meeting the requirements of  
32 subsection (b) of this section;

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

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

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

6 (1) School facilities open for grades kindergarten through  
7 twelve (K-12) in two (2) or more isolated schools meeting the requirements of  
8 subsection (b) of this section and meeting the requirements of § 6-20-601 and  
9 both isolated schools were annexed under Act 60 of the Second Extraordinary  
10 Session of the Eighty-Fourth General Assembly;

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

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

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

22 (f) A school district shall receive an amount equal to five percent  
23 (5%) of the foundation funding received by the school district under § 6-20-  
24 2305(a)(2) based on the three-quarter average daily membership of the school  
25 district if the district:

26 (1) Has a three-quarter average daily membership of less  
27 than five hundred (500) students; and

28 (2) A density ratio of two (2) students or less per  
29 square mile.

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

34 (h)(1) A school district eligible to receive isolated funding under §  
35 6-20-603 shall continue to receive partial funding under § 6-20-603 even if  
36 part of the isolated schools are closed, but a school district shall not

1 receive funding under § 6-20-603 for any isolated schools or parts thereof  
2 that have been closed by the local board of directors.

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

7 (i) The provisions of this section are contingent on the appropriation  
8 and availability of funding for such purpose.

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10 SECTION 2. The Department of Education shall conduct a study of  
11 isolated schools to determine the most efficient method of providing  
12 opportunities for an adequate and substantially equal education for students  
13 without excessive transportation time.

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15 /s/ Lavery  
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