

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 592

4
5 By: Senators Broadway, Bisbee
6 By: Representatives Mahony, Elliott

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE DISTANCE LEARNING
11 COORDINATING COUNCIL; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE DISTANCE
15 LEARNING COORDINATING COUNCIL.

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

20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-47-305 is amended to read as follows:

21 ~~6-47-305.—Arkansas Interagency Distance Learning Review Commission.~~

22 ~~(a)(1)—There is established the Arkansas Interagency Distance Learning~~
23 ~~Review Commission.~~

24 ~~(2)—The purpose of the commission is to review the state's~~
25 ~~comprehensive distance learning program in order to compile a complete~~
26 ~~catalogue of available distance learning opportunities, address statewide~~
27 ~~policy issues regarding the coordination of services, and foster coordination~~
28 ~~and cooperation in the delivery of services.~~

29 ~~(b)—The membership of the commission shall include:~~

30 ~~(1)—The Director of the Department of Education;~~

31 ~~(2)—The Director of the Department of Higher Education;~~

32 ~~(3)—The Director of the Department of Workforce Education;~~

33 ~~(4)—The Director of the Arkansas Economic Development~~

34 ~~Commission;~~

35 ~~(5)—The Director of the Department of Information Systems; and~~

36 ~~(6)—The cochair of the Executive Council of the Presidents~~



1 Council.

2 ~~(c) The commission shall meet on a regular basis and shall make~~
 3 ~~recommendations to the House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate~~
 4 ~~Interim Committee on Education by August 1 of the year preceding the year in~~
 5 ~~which the regular session of the General Assembly is held regarding the~~
 6 ~~performance and coordination of the state's program of distance learning.~~

7 ~~(d) Staff support shall be provided by the appropriate personnel from~~
 8 ~~the Department of Education, the state's public institutions of higher~~
 9 ~~education, the Department of Higher Education, and the Department of~~
 10 ~~Workforce Education with the assistance of any appropriate staff of the other~~
 11 ~~agencies whose directors serve on the commission.~~

12 (a) There is created an advisory body to the Department of Education
 13 to be known as the 'Distance Learning Coordinating Council'.

14 (b) The purpose of the coordinating council is to evaluate distance
 15 learning activities for grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) education
 16 across the State of Arkansas and determine if distance learning activities
 17 are being fully utilized through a collaborative process that maximizes the
 18 utilization of the state's technical and educational resources.

19 (c) The coordinating council shall consist of ten (10) members as
 20 follows:

21 (1) One (1) member who is an employee of the Department of
 22 Education appointed by the Director of the Department of Education;

23 (2) One (1) member who is an employee of the Arkansas
 24 Educational Television Network appointed by the Director of the Division of
 25 Educational Television;

26 (3) One (1) member who is an employee of the Arkansas School for
 27 Mathematics, Science and the Arts appointed by the director of the school;

28 (4) One (1) member who is an employee of Office of Information
 29 Technology appointed by the Director of the Office of Information Technology,

30 (5) One (1) member who is an employee of the Department of
 31 Information Services appointed by the Director of the Department of
 32 Information Services;

33 (6) One (1) member who is an employee of the Arkansas Science
 34 and Technology Authority appointed by the Director of the Arkansas Science
 35 and Technology Authority;

36 (7) One (1) member who is an employee of Department of Workforce

1 Education appointed by the Director of the Department of Workforce Education;

2 (8) One (1) member who is employed by Department of Higher

3 Education appointed by the Director of the Department of Higher Education;

4 (9) One (1) member who is an employee of the Arkansas State

5 Library appointed by the State Librarian;

6 (10) One (1) member who is an employee of an education service

7 cooperative appointed by the Governor from a list of three (3) names

8 submitted by the State Board of Education; and

9 (11) One (1) member who is actively engaged in distance learning

10 activities for grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) education appointed

11 by the Governor from the state at large; and

12 (12) Members added by the Director of the Department of

13 Education to the coordinating council to represent other entities that are

14 associated with grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) distance learning

15 and that come into existence after September 1, 2005.

16 (d)(1) Members shall serve three-year terms and are eligible for

17 reappointment.

18 (2) If a vacancy occurs in an appointed position for any reason,

19 the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

20 (3) The members of the coordinating council shall meet and

21 organize immediately after their appointment and shall elect a chair, a vice

22 chair, and a secretary-treasurer from the membership of the coordinating

23 council.

24 (4) The coordinating council shall meet at least quarterly.

25 (5) Staff support shall be provided by appropriate personnel

26 from the Department of Education, the Department of Workforce Education, the

27 Department of Higher Education, the Division of Public School Academic

28 Facilities and Transportation, the Division of Public School Accountability,

29 the state's public institutions of higher education, and the Office of

30 Information Technology with the assistance of any appropriate staff of the

31 other agencies whose directors serve on the commission.

32 (6) Nonstate employee members shall serve without compensation,

33 but may receive expense reimbursement in accordance with § 25-16-902.

34 (d) The coordinating council shall make recommendations at least

35 annually to the Department of Education, the Division of Public School

36 Academic Facilities and Transportation, the Division of Public School

1 Accountability, and the House and Senate Committees on Education with regard
2 to the following:

3 (1) Distance learning standards and rules;

4 (2) On-line distance learning curriculum;

5 (3) Supplemental distance learning course material;

6 (4) Coordination of distance learning services;

7 (5) Methods for fostering collaborative processes by which
8 distance learning content can be more effectively shared with and delivered
9 to public schools;

10 (6) Strategies for reducing the occurrences of isolated distance
11 learning activities;

12 (7) Options for spreading distance learning costs and increasing
13 the value of shared distance learning services; and

14 (8) Improving utilization of distance learning resources.

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16 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
17 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Arkansas Supreme Court has
18 determined that current public school academic facilities in the State of
19 Arkansas are inadequate and inequitable; that the General Assembly
20 established the Joint Committee on Educational Facilities to inventory the
21 current condition of school facilities and recommend methods for bringing
22 those facilities into conformity with the court's constitutional
23 expectations; that one of the recommendations of the joint committee is to
24 establish a new advisory body to evaluate distance learning capabilities in
25 the public schools; that the establishment of the Distance Learning
26 Coordinating Council satisfies the recommendations of the joint committee;
27 and that in order to promote the state's efforts to satisfy constitutional
28 expectations with regard to an adequate education, the new coordinating
29 council needs to begin work with the fiscal year beginning July, 2005.
30 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately
31 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall
32 become effective on July 1, 2005.

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