

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 86th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2007

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2541

4  
5 By: Representative Wood  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT TO ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ENTER INTO  
10 AGREEMENTS WITH THE ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD FOR  
11 STUDENT PARTICIPANTS IN THE YOUTH CHALLENGE AND  
12 C-STEP PROGRAMS; TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS NATIONAL  
13 GUARD YOUTH CHALLENGE PROGRAM FUND AND THE  
14 ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD C-STEP PROGRAM FUND; AND  
15 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
16

## Subtitle

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18 TO ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ENTER INTO  
19 AGREEMENTS WITH THE ARKANSAS NATIONAL  
20 GUARD FOR STUDENT PARTICIPANTS IN THE  
21 YOUTH CHALLENGE AND C-STEP PROGRAMS.  
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23

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 2 is amended  
27 to add an additional section to read as follows:

28 6-18-230. Agreements with the Arkansas National Guard.

29 (a) As used in this section:

30 (1)(A) "Civilian Student Training Program" or "C-Step Program"  
31 means the diversion program that is administered by the Arkansas National  
32 Guard for at-risk students who are referred to the program by juvenile court.

33 (B) "Civilian Student Training Program" or "C-Step  
34 Program" includes a nine-week residence phase and a twelve-month after-care  
35 program.

36 (C) "Civilian Student Training Program" or "C-Step



1 Program” uses a structured, discipline-based, military-styled education and  
2 behavioral management model to teach each student participant to improve his  
3 or her conduct, school performance, and learning development and to empower  
4 each student to earn school credits to enable the student to return to school  
5 at or above grade level. The graduates of the Civilian Student Training  
6 Program or C-Step Program return to the public school system upon completion  
7 of the program;

8 (2) “Sending school district” means the public school district  
9 that a student participant attended during the preceding school year for at  
10 least three (3) quarters;

11 (3) “Student participant” means a student who is participating  
12 in either the Civilian Student Training Program or the Youth Challenge  
13 Program as described in this section; and

14 (4)(A) “Youth Challenge Program” means the program administered  
15 by the Arkansas National Guard for at-risk students that includes a residence  
16 phase and a post-residence phase and that focuses on the student obtaining  
17 his or her high school diploma or its equivalent.

18 (B) “Youth Challenge Program” includes eight (8) core  
19 components:

20 (i) Academic excellence;

21 (ii) Life-coping skills;

22 (iii) Job skills;

23 (iv) Health and hygiene;

24 (v) Responsible citizenship;

25 (vi) Service to the community;

26 (vii) Leadership and followership; and

27 (viii) Physical fitness.

28 (b)(1) A school district may enter into an agreement with the  
29 Administrator of the Youth Challenge Program or the Administrator of the C-  
30 Step Program to distribute a percentage of the foundation funding as follows:

31 (A) For a student participant in the Youth Challenge  
32 Program, a percentage of foundation funding to be deposited into the Arkansas  
33 National Guard Youth Challenge Program Fund; or

34 (B) For a student participant in the C-Step Program, a  
35 percentage of foundation funding to be deposited into the Arkansas National  
36 Guard C-Step Program Fund.

1           (2) If an agreement is entered into under this subsection (b),  
 2 then the agreement shall include:

3                   (A) The calculation used to determine the percentage of  
 4 foundation funding;

5                   (B) A minimum payment to the program of:

6                           (i) At least forty percent (40%) of the foundation  
 7 funding for the preceding school year after the student participant completes  
 8 the residence phase of the program with no additional subsequent funding; or

9                           (ii) At least thirty percent (30%) of the foundation  
 10 funding for the preceding school year or school years after the student  
 11 participant completes the entire program; and

12                   (C) The time for remittance of the payment.

13           (3) A student participant under this section shall be counted in  
 14 the sending school district's average daily membership.

15           (c) The Administrator of the Youth Challenge Program or his or her  
 16 designee shall:

17                   (1) Collect information and documentation on each student  
 18 participant including:

19                           (A) The sending school district for each student  
 20 participant; and

21                           (B) The projected date that the student participant will  
 22 complete the Youth Challenge Program;

23                   (2) Submit the information and documentation for each student  
 24 participant to the sending school district and the Department of Education;

25                   (3) Notify the sending school district and the Department of  
 26 Education after a student participant completes the Youth Challenge Program;

27                   (4) Provide a copy of any agreement between the sending school  
 28 district and the Arkansas National Guard regarding a student participant to  
 29 the Department of Education; and

30                   (5) Provide a general accounting of the amount of foundation  
 31 funding received from each school district under any such agreement.

32           (d) The Administrator of the C-Step Program or his or her designee  
 33 shall:

34                   (1) Collect information and documentation on each student  
 35 participant including:

36                           (A) The sending school district for each student

1 participant; and

2 (B) The projected date that the student participant will  
3 complete the C-Step Program;

4 (2) Submit the information and documentation for each student  
5 participant to the sending school district and the Department of Education;

6 (3) Notify the sending school district and the Department of  
7 Education after a student participant completes the C-Step Program;

8 (4) Provide a copy of any agreement between the sending school  
9 district and the Arkansas National Guard regarding a student participant to  
10 the Department of Education; and

11 (5) Provide a general accounting of the amount of foundation  
12 funding received from each school district under any such agreement.

13 (e) The Department of Education shall promulgate rules for the  
14 administration of this section and to verify that student participants  
15 enrolled in the Youth Challenge Program or C-Step Program are included in the  
16 average daily membership of the sending school district.

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18 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2303(3), regarding definitions under  
19 the Public School Funding Act of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

20 (3)(A) "Average daily membership" means the total number of days  
21 of school attended plus the total number of days absent by students in ~~grades~~  
22 kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) during the first three (3) quarters  
23 of each school year divided by the number of school days actually taught in  
24 the school district during that period of time rounded up to the nearest  
25 hundredth.

26 (B) In those instances in which the average daily  
27 membership for fewer than three (3) quarters is specified, the number of days  
28 used in the calculation shall be the days in the specified period of time.

29 (C) As applied to this subchapter, students who may be  
30 counted for average daily membership are:

31 (i) Students who reside within the boundaries of the  
32 school district and who are enrolled in a public school operated by the  
33 school district;

34 (ii) Legally transferred students living outside the  
35 school district but attending a public school in the school district under a  
36 provision of the Arkansas Code; and

1 (iii) Students who are eligible to attend and who  
2 reside within the boundaries of a school district and are enrolled in the  
3 Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge Program or the Arkansas National  
4 Guard Civilian Student Training Program, so long as the students are  
5 participants in the program.

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7 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-13-1601(4), regarding the definitions  
8 under the Public Education Reorganization Act, is amended to read as follows:

9 (4)(A) "Average daily membership" means the total number of days  
10 attended plus the total number of days absent by students in ~~grades~~  
11 kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) during the first three (3) quarters  
12 of each school year divided by the number of school days actually taught in  
13 the district during that period of time rounded up to the nearest hundredth.

14 (B) Students who may be counted for average daily  
15 membership are:

16 (i) Students who reside within the boundaries of the  
17 school district and who are enrolled in a public school operated by the  
18 district or a private school for special education students, with their  
19 attendance resulting from a written tuition agreement approved by the  
20 Department of Education;

21 (ii) Legally transferred students living outside the  
22 district but attending a public school in the district; and

23 (iii) Students who reside within the boundaries of  
24 the school district and who are enrolled in the Arkansas National Guard Youth  
25 Challenge Program or the Arkansas National Guard Civilian Student Training  
26 Program, so long as the students are participants in the program;

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28 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Title 19, Chapter 5, Subchapter 12 is amended  
29 to add two (2) additional sections to read as follows:

30 19-5-1230. Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge Program Fund.

31 (a) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, the  
32 Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a fund to be  
33 known as the "Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge Program Fund".

34 (b)(1) All moneys collected under agreements made between the  
35 Administrator of the Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge Program and the  
36 sending school district pursuant to § 6-18-230 shall be deposited into the

1 State Treasury to the credit of the fund as special revenues.

2 (2) The fund shall also consist of any other revenues authorized  
3 by law.

4 (c) The fund shall be used by the Youth Challenge Program for expenses  
5 for:

6 (1) Instructor salaries;

7 (2) Educational programming;

8 (3) Housing; or

9 (4) Other expenses related to the Youth Challenge Program.

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11 19-5-1231. Arkansas National Guard C-Step Program Fund.

12 (a) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, the  
13 Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a fund to be  
14 known as the "Arkansas National Guard C-Step Program Fund".

15 (b)(1) All moneys collected under agreements made between the  
16 Administrator of the Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge Program and the  
17 sending school district pursuant to § 6-18-230 shall be deposited into the  
18 State Treasury to the credit of the fund as special revenues.

19 (2) The fund shall also consist of any other revenues as may be  
20 authorized by law.

21 (c) The fund shall be used by the C-Step Program for expenses for:

22 (1) Instructor salaries;

23 (2) Educational programming;

24 (3) Housing; or

25 (4) Other expenses related to the C-Step Program.

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