

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  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2629

5 By: Representatives R. Green, Reep  
6  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO QUALIFY AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE FOR  
10 ACADEMIC CREDIT IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND  
11 PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AS A  
12 FOREIGN LANGUAGE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
13

## Subtitle

15 AN ACT TO QUALIFY AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE  
16 FOR ACADEMIC CREDIT AS A FOREIGN  
17 LANGUAGE IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND  
18 PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.  
19  
20

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
22

23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1 is amended  
24 to add a new section to read as follows:

25 6-16-140. American Sign Language.

26 (a) As used in this section, "American Sign Language" means the visual-  
27 spatial language by that name used by the English-speaking deaf community.

28 (b) The Arkansas General Assembly recognizes American Sign Language as  
29 a fully developed, separate and complete natural language with distinct  
30 grammar, syntax, vocabulary, and art form.

31 (c) Academic credit for American Sign Language as a foreign language  
32 may be given by a public secondary school:

33 (1) If taught by a qualified instructor of American Sign  
34 Language;

35 (2) Upon a student's successful completion of one (1) or more  
36 American Sign Language courses; and



1           (3) Upon a student’s demonstration of proficiency in American  
2 Sign Language.

3           (d) Nothing in this section prohibits a public secondary school from  
4 offering American Sign Language as a noncredit course.

5           (e) The State Board of Education shall establish rules that:

6                 (1) Define the qualifications of an instructor of American Sign  
7 Language, including without limitation:

8                         (A) Certification by the Registry of Interpreters for the  
9 Deaf;

10                        (B) Certification by the National Association of the Deaf;  
11 or

12                        (C) An appropriate level of teaching experience in  
13 American Sign Language; and

14                 (2) Implement the provisions of this section to grant academic  
15 credit as a foreign language.

16  
17  
18           SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-61-125 is amended to read as follows:  
19 The American Sign Language may qualify as a foreign language for the purpose  
20 of meeting general elective credit or foreign language credit requirements  
21 for graduation from state-supported colleges and universities in Arkansas if:

22           (a) ~~the~~ The language is taught by a qualified instructor of American  
23 Sign Language; and

24           (b) ~~if the~~ The course is conducted under the supervision of an  
25 instructor at ~~the~~ a college or university as approved by that college or  
26 university.