

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

As Engrossed: H3/22/07

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2734

5 By: Representatives Hawkins, Pickett, Rainey
6 By: Senator Argue
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8

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO ENSURE A RIGOROUS AND EFFICIENT
11 CURRICULUM FOR ARKANSAS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS;
12 CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM; AND FOR
13 OTHER PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

16 AN ACT TO ENSURE A RIGOROUS AND
17 EFFICIENT CURRICULUM FOR ARKANSAS HIGH
18 SCHOOL STUDENTS.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 2 is amended*
24 *to add an additional section to read as follows:*

25 6-15-214. Advanced placement course counted as core curriculum course
26 taught.

27 (a) The purpose of this section is to assist small, rural public
28 schools in providing students access to the most rigorous courses available
29 if it is the desire of students to take Advanced Placement courses in the
30 place of regular courses and, in doing so, to meet the requirements of the
31 Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts.

32 (b) The Department of Education acknowledges that the rigor and level
33 of difficulty of Advanced Placement courses exceed the requirements of
34 regular courses. Such rigor and level of difficulty are validated through
35 the required Advanced Placement Audit and Advanced Placement examinations.

36 (c) The State Board of Education shall consider an Advanced Placement



1 course as being taught for one (1) of the required courses under the
2 Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts
3 if:

4 (1) The public school district has a qualified teacher for the
5 required course;

6 (2) No students enrolled in the course;

7 (3) An Advanced Placement course in the same subject area as the
8 required course has students enrolled in the course;

9 (4) The public school district teaches all other courses
10 required by the Standards for Accreditation; and

11 (5)(A) The public school district teaches the required course to
12 any student who enrolls in the public school district after the school year
13 begins.

14 (B) The public school district may teach the required
15 course to a new student:

16 (i) In a traditional classroom setting;

17 (ii) Through distance learning with a qualified
18 teacher, or

19 (iii) By modifying the Advanced Placement course on
20 an individual level to accommodate the new student.

21 (d)(1)(A) The public school district shall notify the Department of
22 Education after registration in the spring prior to the beginning of the new
23 school year and immediately after the school year begins if no students
24 enrolled in the required course and the public school district will seek to
25 meet the Standards of Accreditation using the Advanced Placement course.

26 (B) Upon receiving the public school district notification
27 and after spring registration, the department shall permit the public school
28 district to meet the standards by teaching the Advanced Placement course in
29 place of the required course.

30 (e) If a new student enrolls in the required course, the public school
31 district shall immediately notify the Department of Education.

32 (f) The department shall establish procedures to ensure that no
33 student is coerced into taking an Advanced Placement course for the purpose
34 of meeting the Standards of Accreditation.

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36 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the

1 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that a rigorous curriculum is
2 essential for the improvement of public school student achievement in
3 Arkansas; that efficient and consistent enforcement of the Standards of
4 Accreditation are vital to the public education system; that public school
5 districts should have some efficient method of teaching Advanced Placement
6 courses as part of the accredited curriculum; that this act provides the
7 flexibility needed to ensure that a rigorous curriculum is efficiently
8 delivered to all public school students. Therefore, an emergency is declared
9 to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the
10 public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

11 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

12 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
13 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
14 bill; or

15 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
16 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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18 /s/ Hawkins, et al
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