

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: S3/26/07

A Bill

SENATE BILL 919

5 By: Senator Laverty
6 By: Representatives Davenport, Ragland, Overbey
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO EQUALIZE FOUNDATION FUNDING FOR SPECIAL
11 NEEDS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES.
13

Subtitle

15 AN ACT TO EQUALIZE FOUNDATION FUNDING
16 FOR SPECIAL NEEDS PUBLIC SCHOOL
17 DISTRICTS.
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19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-20-604(b), concerning additional funding
23 for special needs, is amended to read as follows:

24 (b) A school district shall receive special needs funding if the
25 school district meets the requirements of subsections (c) through (f) of this
26 section, and if:

27 (1) The school district was consolidated or annexed or received
28 an annexed school under § 6-13-1601 et seq.;

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

32 (3) The isolated school or district:

33 (A) Filed an affidavit of isolated school status with the
34 state board during the consolidation or annexation process and the facts of
35 the affidavit are verified by the state board or its designee to meet the
36 requirements of § 6-20-601;



1 (B) Filed an affidavit of isolated school status with the
2 state board after the consolidation or annexation process or with regard to
3 the 2006-2007 school year no later than June 1, 2006, and the facts of the
4 affidavit are verified by the state board or its designee to meet the
5 requirements of § 6-20-601; or

6 (C) Filed an affidavit of isolated school status with the
7 state board after the consolidation or annexation process or with regard to
8 the 2006-2007 school year no later than June 1, 2006, and the facts of the
9 affidavit are verified by the state board or its designee to meet the
10 requirements of § 6-20-601 but for the average daily membership requirements
11 of three hundred fifty (350) students or fewer.

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13 *SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-20-604(f) - (i), concerning additional*
14 *funding for special needs, is amended to read as follows:*

15 (f) A school district shall receive an amount equal to five percent
16 (5%) of the foundation funding received by the school district under § 6-20-
17 2305(a)(2) based on the three-quarter average daily membership of the school
18 district if the district has a:

19 (1) Three-quarter average daily membership of fewer than five
20 hundred (500) students; and

21 (2) Density ratio of two (2) students or fewer per square mile.

22 (g) A school district eligible for special needs funding under this
23 section shall continue to be eligible to receive isolated school funding
24 provided under § 6-20-603 but shall only receive funding under one (1) of the
25 categories established under subsections (c)-(f) ~~in~~ of this section.

26 (h)(1) A school district eligible to receive isolated funding under §
27 6-20-603 shall continue to receive partial funding under § 6-20-603 even if
28 part of the isolated schools are closed, but a school district shall not
29 receive funding under § 6-20-603 for any isolated schools or parts thereof
30 that have been closed by the local board of directors.

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

35 (i)(1) The provisions of this section are contingent on the
36 appropriation and availability of funding for its purposes.

1 (2)(A) Undistributed funds under this section and § 6-20-603
2 allocated to a school district that is no longer eligible to receive the
3 funding shall be distributed on an equal basis to each remaining school
4 district that is eligible to receive funds under subsections (c) through (e)
5 of this section.

6 (B) Funds distributed under subdivision (i)(2)(A) of this
7 section shall be used by the school district only for transportation costs of
8 the isolated schools in the school district.

9 (3) Funding provided under this section is in addition to and in
10 excess of the amount of funds necessary to provide an adequate education as
11 required by the Arkansas Constitution and cannot be relied upon beyond the
12 2007-2009 biennium.

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14 /s/ Lavery
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