

1 State of Arkansas  
2 88th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2011  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1936

5 By: Representative T. Steele  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO PROHIBIT THE  
9 WEARING OF CLOTHING IN AN INDECENT MANNER THAT  
10 DISRUPTS THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT; AND FOR OTHER  
11 PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

14 TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO PROHIBIT  
15 THE WEARING OF CLOTHING IN AN INDECENT  
16 MANNER THAT DISRUPTS THE LEARNING  
17 ENVIRONMENT.  
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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### SECTION 1. Legislative intent.

23 (a) The General Assembly finds that the wearing of clothing in an  
24 indecent manner by students in the public schools often preoccupies and  
25 distracts students from their major purpose for being in school, that of  
26 becoming educated in math, science, English, history, and other subjects.  
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28 (b) The General Assembly further finds that student competition over  
29 the manner in which clothing is worn could lead to violence and injuries  
30 during school hours.

31 (c) The General Assembly finds that prohibiting students from wearing,  
32 while on the grounds of a public school during the regular school day,  
33 clothing that exposes underwear or body parts in an indecent manner that  
34 disrupts the learning environment will advance the education of students and  
35 make disruptive incidents of violence less likely to occur.  
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1 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-18-503 is amended to read as follows:  
 2 6-18-503. Written student discipline policies required.

3 (a)(1)(A) Each school district in this state shall develop written  
 4 student discipline policies in compliance with the guidelines established by  
 5 the Department of Education and shall file such policies with the department.

6 (B) Guidelines shall include minimum standards of quality,  
 7 experimentation with innovative programs, and a system to judge the  
 8 effectiveness of the program.

9 (C) The discipline policy shall include provisions for:

10 (i) Placement of a student with disciplinary,  
 11 socially dysfunctional, or behavioral problems not associated with a  
 12 handicapping condition in an alternative learning environment provided by the  
 13 district; and

14 (ii) Expulsion from school for a period of not less  
 15 than one (1) year for possession of any firearm or other weapon prohibited  
 16 upon the school campus by law; provided, however, that the superintendent  
 17 shall have discretion to modify such expulsion requirement for a student on a  
 18 case-by-case basis.

19 (2) Behavioral problems shall include those at risk of not  
 20 satisfactorily completing a high school education.

21 (b)(1) A school district that authorizes use of corporal punishment in  
 22 its discipline policy shall include provisions for administration of the  
 23 punishment, including that it be administered only for cause, be reasonable,  
 24 follow warnings that the misbehavior will not be tolerated, and be  
 25 administered by a teacher or a school administrator and only in the presence  
 26 of a school administrator or his or her designee, who shall be a teacher or  
 27 administrator employed by the school district.

28 (2) As used in this section, "teachers and administrators" means  
 29 those persons employed by a school district and required to have a state-  
 30 issued certificate as a condition of their employment.

31 (c)(1) A school district shall include in its student discipline  
 32 policies a provision prohibiting students from wearing, while on the grounds  
 33 of a public school during the regular school day, clothing that exposes  
 34 underwear or body parts in an indecent manner that disrupts the learning  
 35 environment.

36 (2) A school district shall specify in its student discipline

1 policies the disciplinary actions that will be taken against a student for a  
2 violation of subsection (c)(1) of this section.

3 (3) Subsection (c)(1) of this section shall not be enforced in a  
4 manner that discriminates against a student on the basis of his or her race,  
5 color, religion, sex, disability, or national origin.

6 ~~(e)~~(d) Any amendments or revisions to a school district's student  
7 discipline policies shall be developed and adopted in the same manner as the  
8 original policies required by § 6-18-502 and shall be consistent with the  
9 guidelines established by the department.

10 ~~(d)~~(e) Any amendment or revision to the student discipline policies  
11 adopted by a school district shall be submitted to the department within  
12 thirty (30) days after the adoption of such amendment or revision.

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