

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 88th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2011

As Engrossed: S3/15/11

A Bill

SENATE BILL 171

4
5 By: Senator Salmon
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7 For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO IMPROVE ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION IN
9 PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
10

11 Subtitle

12 TO IMPROVE ARKANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION IN
13 PUBLIC SCHOOLS.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-16-124 is amended to read as follows:
20 6-16-124. Arkansas history – Required ~~social studies~~ course.

21 (a) ~~Beginning with the 1997-1998 school year:~~

22 (1)(A) A unit of Arkansas history shall be taught as a social
23 studies subject at each elementary grade level in every public elementary
24 school, including public charter schools, in this state, with greater
25 emphasis at the fourth and fifth grade levels.

26 (B) A unit of Arkansas history shall include a minimum of
27 ten (10) hours of documented instruction, which may include on-site
28 instruction time during field trips, in kindergarten, first, second, third,
29 and sixth grade and a minimum of twenty (20) hours of documented instruction,
30 including field trips, in fourth and fifth grade. and

31 (2) At least one (1) full semester of Arkansas history shall be
32 taught to all students at the seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, or
33 twelfth grade level in every public secondary school, including public
34 charter schools, in this state.

35 (3) Instruction provided at all grade levels shall conform to
36 the course content guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education.



1 (b)(1) Annually, the administrators of each public school in
2 each public school district, including public charter schools, shall:

3 (A) Maintain records for each school in the district that
4 document for each grade the:

5 (i) Amount of time spent on Arkansas history
6 instruction;

7 (ii) Materials utilized for Arkansas history
8 instruction; and

9 (iii) Curriculum or course guidelines used for
10 Arkansas history instruction; and

11 (B) Certify to the Department of Education that the school
12 district is in compliance with this section by submitting a copy of the
13 annual records prepared under subdivision (c)(1) of this section.

14 (2) A public school district or public charter school that fails
15 to offer the minimum required Arkansas history instruction at each grade
16 level may be subject to sanctions by the department for failure to meet
17 standards for accreditation.

18 (3) The department shall send a letter of reprimand to the
19 school district board of directors, which shall be placed in the school
20 superintendent's personnel file, for each school district that fails to
21 comply fully with this section.

22 (4) The department shall submit the name of each school district
23 that fails to comply with the requirements of this section annually to the
24 interim House Committee on Education and the interim Senate Committee on
25 Education.

26 (c) The department shall promulgate rules necessary to implement this
27 section.

28 ~~(b)(1) Course guidelines shall ensure that the courses represent the~~
29 ~~most accurate and historically sound account of the prehistory, history, and~~
30 ~~culture of Arkansas, including the significant contributions and achievements~~
31 ~~of all segments of the population.~~

32 ~~(2) Any revisions in the Arkansas history course content~~
33 ~~guidelines shall be reported to the public schools and the House Interim~~
34 ~~Committee on Education and the Senate Interim Committee on Education no later~~
35 ~~than July 1 of the year the course guidelines are to be implemented.~~

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1 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1 is amended
2 to add an additional section to read as follows:

3 6-16-141. Arkansas history education advisory panel - Course content
4 guidelines.

5 (a)(1) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint a *twelve (12)*
6 member advisory panel consisting of:

7 (A) Six (6) professional historians, geographers,
8 archeologists, political scientists, and economists with expertise in
9 Arkansas history;

10 (B) Three (3) Arkansas history teachers from a public
11 secondary school; and

12 (C) Three (3) Arkansas history teachers from a public
13 elementary school.

14 (2) An advisory panel chair shall be selected from the
15 membership and shall serve as a non-voting member of the advisory panel.

16 (3) The advisory panel shall:

17 (A) Recommend to the State Board of Education course
18 content guidelines for Arkansas history instruction units taught at the
19 elementary school level that are consistent with social studies curriculum
20 standards for adoption;

21 (B) Recommend to the State Board of Education course
22 content guidelines for Arkansas history instruction for semester long courses
23 offered at the secondary school level that are consistent with social studies
24 curriculum standards for adoption; and

25 (C) Provide advice to the Department of Education on
26 Arkansas history subject matter and Arkansas history professional development
27 standards.

28 (4) The advisory panel shall meet a minimum of one (1) time each
29 year.

30 (b)(1) Course content guidelines for Arkansas history instruction
31 shall ensure that the courses represent the most accurate and historically
32 sound account of the prehistory, history, and culture of Arkansas, including
33 the significant contributions and achievements of all segments of the
34 population.

35 (2) Any revisions in the course content guidelines for Arkansas
36 history instruction shall be reported to the public schools and the interim

1 House Committee on Education and the interim Senate Committee on Education no
2 later than July 1 of the year the course guidelines are to be implemented.

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4 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1 is amended
5 to add an additional section to read as follows:

6 6-16-142. Arkansas history internet resource guide.

7 (a) The Arkansas Department of Heritage shall coordinate the
8 development of an Internet resource guide for Arkansas history instruction.

9 (b) The Internet resource guide shall include without limitation:

10 (1) A current list of professional development opportunities for
11 teachers;

12 (2) Field trip opportunities and sites for students;

13 (3) Lesson plans aligned with adopted course content guidelines;

14 and

15 (4) Links to Internet-based and printed materials augmenting
16 classroom resources.

17 (c) The Department of Education and other state agencies shall promote
18 the internet resource guide to all public school districts, including public
19 charter schools.

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