

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013
4

As Engrossed: S3/19/13

A Bill

SENATE BILL 800

5 By: Senator J. Key
6 By: Representative McLean
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE CONTINUING ADEQUACY EVALUATION
10 ACT OF 2004 CONCERNING THE ADEQUACY EVALUATION
11 COMMITTEE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
13

Subtitle

15 TO AMEND THE CONTINUING ADEQUACY
16 EVALUATION ACT OF 2004 CONCERNING THE
17 ADEQUACY EVALUATION COMMITTEE.
18
19

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

22 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code §§ 10-3-2101 – 10-3-2104, the Continuing*
23 *Adequacy Evaluation Act of 2004, are amended to read as follows:*

24 *10-3-2101. Purpose and findings – Joint Adequacy Evaluation Committee.*

25 *(a) The General Assembly recognizes that it is the responsibility of*
26 *the State of Arkansas to:*

27 *(1) Develop what constitutes an adequate education in Arkansas*
28 *pursuant to the mandate of the Supreme Court and to conduct an adequacy*
29 *study, which has been completed; and*

30 *(2) Know how revenues of the State of Arkansas are being spent*
31 *and whether true equality in educational opportunity is being achieved.*

32 *(b) The General Assembly also recognizes that no one (1) study can*
33 *fully define what is an adequate, efficient, and equitable education.*

34 *(c) The General Assembly further recognizes that while the adequacy*
35 *study performed in 2003 is an integral component toward satisfying the*
36 *requirements imposed by the Supreme Court, the General Assembly has a*



1 continuing duty to assess what constitutes an adequate education in the State
2 of Arkansas.

3 (d) Therefore, because the State of Arkansas has an absolute duty to
4 provide the school children of the State of Arkansas with an adequate
5 education, the General Assembly finds that ensuring that an adequate and
6 equitable system of public education is available in the State of Arkansas
7 shall be the ongoing priority for the State of Arkansas.

8 (e) There is created a joint interim committee of the General Assembly
9 to be known as the "Joint Adequacy Evaluation Committee".

10 (f) The Joint Adequacy Evaluation Committee shall consist of the
11 following members:

12 (1) Five (5) members of the Senate as follows:

13 (A) One (1) member who is the Chair of the Senate
14 Committee on Education;

15 (B) One (1) member who is the Vice Chair of the Senate
16 Committee on Education; and

17 (C) Three (3) members of the Senate Committee on Education
18 to be appointed by the Chair of the Senate Committee on Education;

19 (2) Five (5) members of the House of Representatives as follows:

20 (A) One (1) member who is the Chair of the House Committee
21 on Education;

22 (B) One (1) member who is the Vice Chair of the House
23 Committee on Education; and

24 (C) Three (3) members of the House Committee on Education
25 to be appointed by the Chair of the House Committee on Education;

26 (3) One (1) member who is the Senate Cochair of the Joint Budget
27 Committee, or his or her designee; and

28 (4) One (1) member who is the House Cochair of the Joint Budget
29 Committee, or his or her designee.

30 (g)(1) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Education and the Chair of
31 the House Committee on Education shall serve as cochairs of the Joint
32 Adequacy Evaluation Committee.

33 (2) The Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Education and the
34 Vice Chair of the House Committee on Education shall serve as vice chairs of
35 the Joint Adequacy Evaluation Committee.

36 (h) If a vacancy occurs in an appointed position for any reason, the

1 vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

2 (i)(1) The Joint Adequacy Evaluation Committee shall meet upon call of
3 either or both of the cochairs of the Joint Adequacy Evaluation Committee.

4 (2) Seven (7) members of the Joint Adequacy Evaluation Committee
5 shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business.

6 (3) A quorum is required for any action of the Joint Adequacy
7 Evaluation Committee.

8
9 10-3-2102. Duties.

10 (a) During each interim, the ~~House Committee on Education and the~~
11 ~~Senate Committee on Education~~ Joint Adequacy Evaluation Committee shall meet
12 ~~separately or jointly, as needed, to:~~

13 (1) Assess, evaluate, and monitor the entire spectrum of public
14 education across the State of Arkansas to determine whether equal educational
15 opportunity for an adequate education is being substantially afforded to the
16 school children of the State of Arkansas and recommend any necessary changes;

17 (2) Review and continue to evaluate what constitutes an adequate
18 education in the State of Arkansas and recommend any necessary changes;

19 (3) Review and continue to evaluate the method of providing
20 equality of educational opportunity of the State of Arkansas and recommend
21 any necessary changes;

22 (4) Evaluate the effectiveness of any program implemented by a
23 school, a school district, an education service cooperative, the Department
24 of Education, or the State Board of Education and recommend necessary
25 changes;

26 (5) Review the average teacher salary in the State of Arkansas
27 in comparison to average teacher salaries in surrounding states and member
28 states of the Southern Regional Education Board and make recommendations for
29 any necessary changes to teacher salaries in the State of Arkansas
30 established by law;

31 (6) Review and continue to evaluate the costs of an adequate
32 education for all students in the State of Arkansas, taking into account
33 cost-of-living variances, diseconomies of scale, transportation variability,
34 demographics, school districts with a disproportionate number of students who
35 are economically disadvantaged or have educational disabilities, and other
36 factors as deemed relevant, and recommend any necessary changes;

1 (7) Review and continue to evaluate the amount of per-student
2 expenditure necessary to provide an equal educational opportunity and the
3 amount of state funds to be provided to school districts, based upon the cost
4 of an adequate education and monitor the expenditures and distribution of
5 state funds and recommend any necessary changes; and

6 (8) Review and monitor the amount of funding provided by the
7 State of Arkansas for an education system based on need and the amount
8 necessary to provide an adequate educational system, not on the amount of
9 funding available, and make recommendations for funding for each biennium.

10 (b) As a guidepost in conducting deliberations and reviews, the
11 ~~committees~~ Joint Adequacy Evaluation Committee shall use the opinion of the
12 Supreme Court in the matter of Lake View Sch. Dist. No. 25 v. Huckabee, 351
13 Ark. 31, 91 S.W.3d 472 (2002), and other legal precedent.

14 (c) The Department of Education, the Department of Career Education,
15 and the Department of Higher Education shall provide the ~~House Committee on~~
16 ~~Education and the Senate Committee on Education~~ Joint Adequacy Evaluation
17 Committee with assistance and information as requested by the ~~House Committee~~
18 ~~on Education and the Senate Committee on Education~~ Joint Adequacy Evaluation
19 Committee.

20 (d) The Attorney General is requested to provide assistance to the
21 ~~House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education~~ Joint
22 Adequacy Evaluation Committee as needed.

23 (e) Contingent upon the availability of funding, the ~~House Committee~~
24 ~~on Education, the Senate Committee on Education, or both,~~ Joint Adequacy
25 Evaluation Committee may enter into an agreement with outside consultants or
26 other experts as may be necessary to conduct the adequacy review as required
27 under this section.

28 (f) The study for subdivisions (a)(1)-(4) of this section shall be
29 accomplished by:

30 (1) Reviewing a report prepared by the Division of Legislative
31 Audit compiling all funding received by public schools for each program;

32 (2) Reviewing the curriculum frameworks developed by the
33 Department of Education;

34 (3) Reviewing the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment,
35 and Accountability Program under the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing,
36 Assessment, and Accountability Program Act, § 6-15-401 et seq.;

1 (4) Reviewing fiscal, academic, and facilities distress
2 programs;

3 (5) Reviewing the state's standing under the No Child Left
4 Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.;

5 (6) Reviewing the Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan
6 process; and

7 (7) Reviewing the specific programs identified for further study
8 by the ~~House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education~~
9 Joint Adequacy Evaluation Committee.

10 (g)(1) The study for subdivision (a)(5) of this section shall be
11 accomplished by comparing the average teacher salary in Arkansas with
12 surrounding states and Southern Regional Education Board member states,
13 including without limitation:

14 (A) Comparing teacher salaries as adjusted by a cost of
15 living index or a comparative wage index;

16 (B) Reviewing the minimum teacher compensation salary
17 schedule; and

18 (C) Reviewing any related topics identified for further
19 study by the ~~House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on~~
20 ~~Education~~ Joint Adequacy Evaluation Committee.

21 (2) Depending on the availability of National Education
22 Association data on teacher salaries in other states, the teacher salary
23 comparison may be prepared as a supplement to the report after September 1.

24 (h) The study for subdivision (a)(6) of this section shall be
25 accomplished by reviewing:

26 (1) Expenditures from:

27 (A) Isolated school funding;

28 (B) National school lunch student funding;

29 (C) Declining enrollment funding;

30 (D) Student growth funding; and

31 (E) Special education funding;

32 (2) Disparities in teacher salaries; and

33 (3) Any related topics identified for further study by the ~~House~~
34 ~~Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education~~ Joint Adequacy
35 Evaluation Committee.

36 (i) The study for subdivision (a)(7) of this section shall be

1 accomplished by:

2 (1) Completing an expenditure analysis and resource allocation
3 review each biennium; and

4 (2) Reviewing any related topics identified for further study by
5 the ~~House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education~~ Joint
6 Adequacy Evaluation Committee.

7 (j) The study for subdivision (a)(8) of this section shall be
8 accomplished by:

9 (1) Using evidence-based research as the basis for recalibrating
10 as necessary the state's system of funding public education;

11 (2) Adjusting for the inflation or deflation of any appropriate
12 component of the system of funding public education every two (2) years;

13 (3) Reviewing legislation enacted or rules promulgated during
14 the biennium covered by the study to determine the impact of the legislation
15 and rules on educational adequacy-related public school costs; and

16 (4) Reviewing any related topics identified for further study by
17 the ~~House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education~~ Joint
18 Adequacy Evaluation Committee.

19
20 10-3-2103. Investigations.

21 (a) The ~~House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on~~
22 ~~Education~~ Joint Adequacy Evaluation Committee shall have the authority to
23 conduct investigations pertaining to the effectiveness of any and all
24 education programs of:

25 (1) Any school;

26 (2) Any school district;

27 (3) Any service cooperative;

28 (4) Any institution;

29 (5) The Department of Education or its successors; or

30 (6) The State Board of Education or any department under the
31 board's authority.

32 (b)(1) In connection with any investigation, the ~~House Committee on~~
33 ~~Education and the Senate Committee on Education~~ Joint Adequacy Evaluation
34 Committee shall have the right and the power to subpoena witnesses and to
35 issue subpoena duces tecum, pursuant to § 10-3-208.

36 (2) ~~The chairs and the cochairs of the House Committee on~~

1 ~~Education and the Senate Committee on Education are~~ A cochair or vice chair
2 of the Joint Adequacy Evaluation Committee is authorized to administer oaths.

3
4 10-3-2104. Report.

5 (a) ~~The House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on~~
6 ~~Education~~ Joint Adequacy Evaluation Committee shall file ~~separately or~~
7 ~~jointly, or both,~~ reports of ~~their~~ its findings and recommendations with the
8 President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
9 Representatives no later than November 1 of each year before the convening of
10 a regular session.

11 (b) For each recommendation the report shall include proposed
12 implementation schedules with timelines, specific steps, agencies and persons
13 responsible, resources needed, and drafts of bills proposing all necessary
14 and recommended legislative changes.

15 (c) The report shall be supplemented as needed to accomplish the
16 purposes of this continuing evaluation.

17 (d)(1) Before a fiscal session, the ~~House Committee on Education and~~
18 ~~the Senate Committee on Education shall meet, jointly or separately as~~
19 ~~needed,~~ Joint Adequacy Evaluation Committee shall meet to review the funding
20 recommendations contained in the most recent report filed under this section.

21 (2) ~~The House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on~~
22 ~~Education, meeting jointly or separately as needed,~~ Joint Adequacy Evaluation
23 Committee also shall review any other matters identified by the ~~House~~
24 ~~Committee on Education or the Senate Committee on Education~~ Joint Adequacy
25 Evaluation Committee that may affect the state's obligation to provide a
26 substantially equal opportunity for an adequate education for all public
27 school students.

28 (3) By November 1 of the calendar year before the beginning of a
29 fiscal session, if the ~~House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee~~
30 ~~on Education find~~ Joint Adequacy Evaluation Committee finds that the
31 recommendations in the most recent adequacy evaluation report filed under
32 this section should be amended, the ~~House Committee on Education and the~~
33 ~~Senate Committee on Education, jointly or separately, or both,~~ Joint Adequacy
34 Evaluation Committee shall advise in writing the President Pro Tempore of the
35 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of ~~their~~ its findings
36 and amendments to the adequacy evaluation report.

1 (e) ~~The House Committee on Education or the Senate Committee on~~
2 ~~Education, separately or jointly, Joint Adequacy Evaluation Committee~~ shall
3 publish a draft of the report required under this section or any amendment or
4 supplement to the report not less than fourteen (14) days before the report,
5 amendment, or supplement is submitted to the President Pro Tempore of the
6 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

7
8 /s/J. Key
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36