

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4
5 By: Senator Elliott
6

A Bill

SENATE BILL 274

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AND ACT TO REVISE THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH A
9 PUBLIC SCHOOL OR PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT HAS BEEN
10 TAKEN OVER BY THE STATE FOR BEING IN ACADEMIC
11 DISTRESS CAN BE RETURNED TO LOCAL CONTROL; AND FOR
12 OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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15 TO REVISE THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH A
16 PUBLIC SCHOOL OR PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
17 THAT HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE STATE FOR
18 BEING IN ACADEMIC DISTRESS CAN BE
19 RETURNED TO LOCAL CONTROL.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-430(d)(2)(A), concerning academic
26 distress, is amended to read as follows:

27 (2)(A) ~~If the state board determines that sufficient progress~~
28 ~~has been made by a public school or school district in academic distress~~
29 ~~toward correcting all issues that caused the classification of academic~~
30 ~~distress, but the public school or school district has not yet resolved all~~
31 ~~issues that caused the classification of academic distress, the~~ The
32 commissioner, with the approval of the state board, may appoint a community
33 advisory board of either five (5) or seven (7) members to serve under the
34 supervision and direction of the commissioner if the state board determines
35 that sufficient progress has been made by a public school or public school
36 district in academic distress toward correcting issues that caused the



1 classification of academic distress but:

2 (i) The public school or public school district has
 3 not yet resolved all issues that caused the classification of academic
 4 distress; or

5 (ii) It is not in the best interest of the public
 6 school or public school district and the community at large to return the
 7 public school or public school district to the local control of its
 8 residents.

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 10 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-430(d)(2)(D), concerning academic
 11 distress, is amended to read as follows:

12 (D) The duties of a community advisory board include
 13 without limitation:

14 (i) Meeting monthly during a regularly scheduled
 15 public meeting with the state-appointed administrator regarding the progress
 16 of the public school or school district toward correcting ~~all~~ issues that
 17 caused the classification of academic distress;

18 (ii) Seeking community input from the residents of
 19 the school district regarding the progress of the public school or school
 20 district toward correcting ~~all~~ issues that caused the classification of
 21 academic distress;

22 (iii) Conducting hearings and making recommendations
 23 to the commissioner regarding personnel and student discipline matters under
 24 the appropriate district policies;

25 (iv) Working to build community capacity for the
 26 continued support of the school district; and

27 (v) Submitting quarterly reports to the commissioner
 28 and the state board regarding the progress of the public school or school
 29 district toward correcting ~~all~~ issues that caused the classification of
 30 academic distress.

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 32 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-15-430(d)(3)(A), concerning academic
 33 distress, is amended to read as follows:

34 (3)(A) By April 1 of each year following the appointment of a
 35 community advisory board under subdivision (d)(2) of this section, the state
 36 board shall determine the extent of the public school's or school district's

1 progress toward correcting ~~all~~ issues that caused the classification of
2 academic distress and shall:

3 (i) Allow the community advisory board to remain in
4 place for one (1) additional year;

5 (ii) Return the school district to local control by
6 calling for the election of a newly elected board of directors if:

7 (a) The department certifies in writing to the
8 state board and to the school district that:

9 (1) ~~the~~ The public school or school
10 district has corrected all issues that caused the classification of academic
11 distress and that no public school within the school district is classified
12 as being in academic distress; or

13 (2) It is in the best interest of the
14 public school or public school district and the community at large to return
15 the public school or public school district to the local control of its
16 residents; and

17 (b) The state board determines:

18 (1) ~~the~~ The public school or school
19 district has corrected all issues that caused the classification of academic
20 distress and that no public school within the school district is classified
21 as being in academic distress; or

22 (2) That it in the best interest of the
23 public school or public school district and the community at large to return
24 the public school or public school district to the local control of its
25 residents; or

26 (iii) Annex, consolidate, or reconstitute the school
27 district pursuant to this title.

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29 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-15-430(e)(1), concerning academic
30 distress, is amended to read as follows:

31 (e)(1) ~~If, by~~ By the end of the fifth school year following the public
32 school's or school district's classification of academic distress status, ~~the~~
33 ~~public school or school district in academic distress has not corrected all~~
34 ~~issues that caused the classification of academic distress,~~ the state board,
35 after a public hearing, shall consolidate, annex, or reconstitute the school
36 district under this section if:

1 (A) The public school or public school district in
2 academic distress has not corrected all issues that caused the classification
3 of academic distress; or

4 (B) It is not in the best interest of the public school or
5 public school district and the community at large to return the public school
6 or public school district to the local control of its residents.

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