

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 509

5 By: Senator Elliott
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND ACADEMIC
9 DISTRESS; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
10 STUDY THE EFFECTS OF A POTENTIAL TAKEOVER OF A PUBLIC
11 SCHOOL OR DISTRICT; TO ESTABLISH A MINIMUM NUMBER OF
12 STUDENTS WHO FALL BELOW ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS TO BE MET
13 IN ORDER TO TAKE OVER A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR DISTRICT;
14 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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18 TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
19 STUDY THE EFFECTS OF A TAKEOVER OF A
20 SCHOOL OR DISTRICT; AND TO ESTABLISH A
21 MINIMUM NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO FALL BELOW
22 ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS IN ORDER TO TAKE OVER
23 A SCHOOL OR DISTRICT.
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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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28 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-426, concerning public schools or
29 public school districts being classified as being in school improvement, is
30 amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

31 (k)(1) If a public school or public school district is classified as
32 being in school improvement, the department, in consultation with other
33 public agencies, shall develop:

34 (A) A community impact statement that studies and measures
35 the potential impact on the public school or public school district and the
36 community at large that would result from the state board or Commissioner of



1 Education assuming authority over the public school or public school district
2 if the public school or public school district were to be classified as being
3 in academic distress; and

4 (B) An assessment of social indicators and other
5 circumstances that exist outside of the classroom:

6 (i) That affect the academic performance and
7 achievement level of students in the public school or public school district;
8 and

9 (ii) The number of students affected.

10 (2) The community impact statement and assessment of social
11 indicators and other circumstances under subdivision (k)(1) of this section
12 shall be:

13 (A) Sent to the public school or public school district
14 classified as being in school improvement; and

15 (B) Made available to the public on the department's
16 website.

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18 SECTION 2. The introductory language of Arkansas Code § 6-15-430(a),
19 concerning a public school district classified as being in academic distress,
20 is amended to read as follows:

21 (a) ~~If~~ Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, if a
22 school district is classified as being in academic distress, the State Board
23 of Education may:
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25 SECTION 3. The introductory language of Arkansas Code § 6-15-430(b),
26 concerning a public school being classified as being in academic distress, is
27 amended to read as follows:

28 (b) ~~If~~ Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, if a
29 public school is classified as being in academic distress, the state board
30 may:
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32 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-15-430, concerning academic distress, is
33 amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

34 (g) The state board or the commissioner shall not assume authority
35 over a public school district classified as being in academic distress or a
36 public school district when a public school within the public school district

1 is classified as being in academic distress unless the academic performance
2 of at least forty percent (40%) of the students enrolled in the public school
3 district falls below established levels of academic achievement used to
4 measure whether a public school or public school district is classified as
5 being in academic distress.

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