

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1715

5 By: Representative Murdock
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
9 FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS; TO AMEND THE LAW
10 REGARDING JUVENILE OFFENDER EDUCATION IN AN
11 ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 CONCERNING ALTERNATIVE LEARNING
16 ENVIRONMENT FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL
17 DISTRICTS; AND TO AMEND THE LAW REGARDING
18 JUVENILE OFFENDER EDUCATION IN AN
19 ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.
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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 § 6-20-2305(b)(2)(A)(ii), concerning school
26 funding for alternative learning environments, is amended to read as follows:

27 (ii)(a) Funding for students in alternative learning
28 environments shall be distributed based on rules promulgated by the State
29 Board of Education.

30 (b) A public school district shall be eligible
31 for receipt of alternative learning environment funding under this section
32 immediately upon the enrollment of a public school student who attends the
33 public school district in an alternative learning environment.
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35 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-48-101(1)(A), concerning the definition
36 of "alternative learning environment", is amended to read as follows:



1 (1)(A)(i) "Alternative learning environment" means an alternate
 2 class or program ~~within~~ that serves a public school or public school district
 3 and that affords all public students an environment that seeks to eliminate
 4 barriers to learning for any student whose academic and social progress is
 5 negatively affected by the student's personal characteristics or situation.

6 (ii) The Department of Education shall by rule more
 7 fully define the student's personal characteristics and situations applicable
 8 under this chapter.

9 (iii) "Alternative learning environment" includes a
 10 regional alternative learning environment high school that is designed to
 11 serve public school districts within multiple counties.

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 13 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 48, is amended to add an
 14 additional section to read as follows:

15 6-48-105. Regional alternative learning environment high schools.

16 (a)(1) The purpose of this section is to assist the juvenile justice
 17 system with financial support for adjudicated juveniles by giving students
 18 who have been adjudicated the opportunity to be placed in a regional
 19 alternative learning environment high school when the student who has been
 20 adjudicated has experienced difficulty or cannot succeed in the traditional
 21 public school setting or the alternative learning environment provided by the
 22 public school district under this subchapter.

23 (2) A parent or legal guardian of a student who has been
 24 adjudicated should be provided with the opportunity to request that their
 25 student who has been adjudicated attend a regional alternative learning
 26 environment high school.

27 (3) A regional alternative learning environment shall be
 28 included as part of a public school district's alternative learning
 29 environment program.

30 (b) Upon receipt of alternative learning environment funding under §
 31 6-20-2305(b)(2)(A)(ii)(b), a public school district shall set aside a minimum
 32 of fifteen percent (15%) of the alternative learning environment funding
 33 received in order to fund a public school student's attendance at a regional
 34 alternative learning environment high school if the public school student:

35 (1) Is court-ordered to attend a regional alternative learning
 36 environment high school; or

1 (2) Has parents or legal guardians who have requested for the
2 student to attend a regional alternative learning environment high school.

3 (c)(1) A public school district may use alternative learning
4 environment funds distributed under § 6-20-2305(b)(2)(A)(ii) for any other
5 purpose that is permissible under law or State Board of Education rules if,
6 by the end of the third quarter of the school year, there is no public school
7 student from the school district who is attending a regional alternative
8 environment high school under subsection (b) of this section.

9 (2)(A) However, a public school district from which a student
10 who is attending a regional alternative environment high school under
11 subsection (b) of this section shall continue to use alternative learning
12 environment funds set aside under subsection (b) of this section to pay for
13 the public school student to attend the regional alternative learning
14 environment high school until all payments on behalf of the public school
15 student have been made to the regional alternative learning environment high
16 school.

17 (B) Once a public school district has remunerated all
18 payments on behalf of a public school student who is attending a regional
19 alternative learning environment high school, the public school district may
20 use any funds that remain in the portion of alternative learning environment
21 funds set aside under subsection (b) of this section for any other purpose
22 that is permissible under law or state board rules.

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