

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1451

5 By: Representative Godfrey
6 By: Senator C. Tucker
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE BASIC LANGUAGE
10 OF INSTRUCTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS; TO ALLOW A PUBLIC
11 SCHOOL DISTRICT TO ADOPT AN APPROVED BILINGUAL
12 PROGRAM OR DUAL-IMMERSION PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER
13 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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16 TO ALLOW A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT TO
17 ADOPT AN APPROVED BILINGUAL PROGRAM OR
18 DUAL-IMMERSION PROGRAM.
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-16-104(a), concerning the language of
25 instruction in public schools, is amended to read as follows:

26 (a)(1) The basic language of instruction in the public school branches
27 in all the public schools of the state, ~~public and private~~, shall be the
28 English language only.

29 (2) It shall not be a violation of this section for ~~an~~:

30 (A) An educator to communicate with a student in the
31 student's native language in order to facilitate the student's ability to
32 become proficient and learn in the English language; or

33 (B) A public school district to adopt a bilingual program
34 or a dual-immersion program approved by the Division of Elementary and
35 Secondary Education.
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1 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-16-104, concerning the basic language of
2 instruction in public schools, is amended to add an additional subsection to
3 read as follows:

4 (c) As used in this section:

5 (1)(A) "Bilingual program" means a program that uses two (2)
6 languages, a student's primary language and the English language, as a means
7 of instruction.

8 (B) A bilingual program includes building upon a student's
9 primary language skills and develops and expands the English language skills
10 of each student to enable him or her to achieve proficiency in both
11 languages, while providing access to content areas; and

12 (2) "Dual-immersion program" means a program that develops dual
13 language proficiency in two (2) languages by offering a student instruction
14 in English and instruction in another language in a classroom that is usually
15 comprised of half native English speakers and half native speakers of the
16 other language.

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