

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1254

5 By: Representatives J. Mayberry, Brooks, Hawk, McClure
6 By: Senator K. Hammer
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ACADEMIC FACILITIES PARTNERSHIP
10 PROGRAM; TO AMEND THE STATE FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION
11 AMOUNT BY USING THE BASIC PROJECT COST PER SQUARE
12 FOOT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS; AND
13 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

15 TO AMEND THE STATE FINANCIAL
16 PARTICIPATION AMOUNT BY USING THE BASIC
17 PROJECT COST PER SQUARE FOOT FOR PUBLIC
18 SCHOOL NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.
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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 § 6-20-2507(f)(1), concerning the calculation
26 of the amount of state financial participation under the Academic Facilities
27 Partnership Program, is amended to read as follows:

28 (f)(1)(A) If a school district qualifies for state financial
29 participation under this section, the Division of Public School Academic
30 Facilities and Transportation shall certify the amount of state financial
31 participation to the commission.

32 (B) The amount of state financial participation under this
33 section ~~is limited to~~ shall be the amount resulting from the application of
34 the academic facilities wealth index to the project cost promulgated by the
35 commission to calculate the cost necessary to bring the academic facility
36 into compliance with the Arkansas Public School Academic Facility Manual



1 under § 6-21-809.

2
 3 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2509 is amended to read as follows:
 4 6-20-2509. Project cost guidelines.

5 (a)(1) The Division of Public School Academic Facilities and
 6 Transportation shall establish ~~formulas~~ funding factors that shall be updated
 7 annually by the fourth quarter of the calendar year for determining the basic
 8 project cost per square foot for various types of new construction projects,
 9 including without limitation:

- 10 (A) New academic facilities;
- 11 (B) Additions to existing academic facilities; and
- 12 (C) Major improvements to academic facilities that bring
 13 the state of condition or efficiency of the academic facility to a state of
 14 condition or efficiency better than the facility's original condition of
 15 completeness or efficiency.

16 (2) In establishing the ~~formulas~~ funding factors, the division
 17 shall take into consideration:

- 18 (A) The academic programs offered;
- 19 (B) Current enrollment levels;
- 20 (C) Enrollment projections;
- 21 (D) Grade configuration;
- 22 (E) The type of public school; and
- 23 (F) Nationally recognized design and construction
 24 standards for cost per square foot.

25 (3) The division shall establish a process for determining the
 26 cost of local enhancements and shall include a mechanism in the ~~formulas~~
 27 funding factors for determining basic project cost that excludes the cost of
 28 local enhancements from the qualified project cost.

29 (b) The division shall not limit the funding factors established in
 30 subsection (a) of this section by using maximum funding factors or other
 31 constraints.

32 ~~(b)(1)(c)(1)~~ When a school district applies for state financial
 33 participation, the division shall use the appropriate ~~formula~~ funding factor
 34 to compute a qualified project cost.

35 (2) The division shall determine the estimated amount of the
 36 state's share of financial participation based on the qualified project cost

1 and the school district's wealth index as determined under § 6-20-2502.

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