

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

SENATE BILL 619

By: Senator Irvin
By: Representative Walker

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FORMATION OF AN ISOLATED SCHOOL DISTRICT; TO ESTABLISH THE MEMBERSHIP OF AN ISOLATED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS; TO CREATE A FUNDING MECHANISM FOR A NEWLY FORMED ISOLATED SCHOOL DISTRICT; TO DIRECT OWNERSHIP OF FACILITIES AND PROPERTY OF ISOLATED SCHOOLS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING THE FORMATION OF AN ISOLATED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 13, is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 18 – Isolated School Districts

6-13-1801. Isolated school district – Formation.

(a)(1) An isolated school district may be formed from an isolated school within a resulting or receiving district that was annexed or consolidated with another school district under the Public Education Reorganization Act, § 6-13-1601 et seq.

(2) In order to qualify as an isolated school district, the isolated school within a resulting or receiving district that was annexed or consolidated with another school district under the Public Education Reorganization Act, § 6-13-1601 et seq., shall have been in operation for kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) within two (2) years of the date on



1 which the isolated school district applies under this subchapter.

2 (b) The minimum school enrollment to establish a new public school
3 district shall not apply when forming an isolated school district under this
4 subchapter.

5
6 6-13-1802. Isolated school district board of directors.

7 (a) An isolated school district shall be governed by a board of
8 directors that consists of five (5) members who live within the boundaries of
9 the isolated school district.

10 (b) The members of an isolated school district board of directors
11 shall be elected by eligible voters residing within the boundaries of the
12 isolated school district.

13 (c)(1) Each member of an isolated school district board of directors
14 shall be elected to serve a five-year term.

15 (2)(A) The initial members of an isolated school district board
16 of directors shall draw lots for terms from one (1) to five (5) years to
17 result in staggered terms.

18 (B) Each year thereafter, an annual school board election
19 shall be held to elect a member of an isolated school district board of
20 directors to fill an expiring term.

21
22 6-13-1803. Funding.

23 (a) An election within the boundaries of an isolated school district
24 shall be held to establish the millage rate for the isolated school district
25 as required under § 26-80-111.

26 (b) For purposes of funding calculations that utilize prior-year
27 average daily membership, state funding aid for the first year of operation
28 of an isolated school district shall be based on the:

29 (1) Prior-year first three-quarters average daily membership of
30 the public school now proposed to operate as an isolated school district; or

31 (2) The average daily membership from two (2) years prior if the
32 public school proposed to operate as an isolated school district ceases
33 operations two (2) years before the isolated school district is formed.

34 (c) If an isolated school district begins operations at the beginning
35 of the following school year after severing from a local public school
36 district under which the proposed isolated school district currently

1 operates, the prior-year average daily membership of the isolated school
2 district shall be subtracted from the prior-year average daily membership of
3 the public school district under which the isolated school previously
4 operated.

5 (d) An isolated school district shall be eligible for funding awarded
6 under § 6-20-601 et seq. and any additional funds based on a school
7 district's isolated status.

8 (e) An isolated school district shall be eligible for any current
9 state funding available for public school districts and open-enrollment
10 public charter schools.

11
12 6-13-1804. Facilities and property.

13 (a)(1) A local public school district under which a proposed isolated
14 school district currently operates shall agree to release ownership of the
15 isolated school district's facilities and any accompanying debt on the
16 facilities to the isolated school district.

17 (2) The written release form required under subdivision (a)(1)
18 of this section shall be signed by the president of the school district board
19 of directors of the local public school district under which the proposed
20 isolated school district currently operates and shall be included in the
21 application submitted by the proposed isolated school district.

22 (b) Ownership of a school bus acquired with isolated school funds in
23 the previous two (2) school years shall be transferred to the resulting
24 isolated school district.

25 (c) Isolated school funds received by the local public school district
26 under which the proposed isolated school district currently operates within
27 four (4) months of the end of the public school district's fiscal year on
28 June 30 shall be transferred to the resulting isolated school district.

29 (d) Ownership of all furnishings, equipment, textbooks, computers,
30 technology, phone systems, audio-video systems, athletic equipment, and
31 machinery at an isolated school currently operating within a local school
32 district shall be transferred to the resulting isolated school district.

33
34 6-13-1805. Management.

35 An isolated school district shall be managed by:

36 (1) A director hired by the isolated school district;

1 (2) A director appointed by the Division of Elementary and
2 Secondary Education to oversee operations of all isolated school districts in
3 the state; or

4 (3) Any other director or superintendent the division appoints
5 to the isolated school district.