

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1627

5 By: Representative Sturch
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
9 CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT ATTENDANCE; AND FOR
10 OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

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13 TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
14 CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT
15 ATTENDANCE.
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code §§ 6-18-210 and 6-18-211 are repealed.

22 ~~6-18-210. Definitions.~~

23 ~~As used in this section and § 6-18-211:~~

24 ~~(1) "Financial hardships" means harm or suffering caused by a~~
25 ~~student's inability to obtain or provide basic life necessities of food,~~
26 ~~clothing, and shelter for the student or the student's family; and~~

27 ~~(2) "Planned instructional time" means regularly scheduled class~~
28 ~~periods offering organized teaching of a Department of Education-sanctioned~~
29 ~~class curriculum.~~
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31 ~~6-18-211. Mandatory attendance for students in grades nine through~~
32 ~~twelve.~~

33 ~~(a) Beginning with the 2004-2005 school year, students in grades nine~~
34 ~~through twelve (9-12) shall be required to schedule and attend a full school~~
35 ~~day.~~

36 ~~(b)(1) No later than January 30, 2004, the State Board of Education~~



1 shall promulgate regulations that require students in grades nine through
 2 twelve (9-12) to enroll in no less than three hundred fifty (350) minutes of
 3 planned instructional time each day as a requirement for graduation.

4 (2)(A) The regulations shall allow local school district boards
 5 of directors to develop policies to allow:

6 (i) Students to be assigned to no more than one (1)
 7 class period each day for a study hall period that the student shall be
 8 required to attend and participate in for a full class period of self-study
 9 or organized tutoring in the school building; and

10 (ii)(a) No more than one (1) class period each day
 11 for organized and scheduled student extracurricular classes to be included as
 12 planned instructional time.

13 (b) If the extracurricular class is related to
 14 a seasonal activity, the class must continue to meet after the season ends to
 15 be counted toward the requirement of planned instructional time.

16 (B) The regulations shall allow local school district
 17 boards of directors to develop policies for granting waivers to students who
 18 would experience proven financial hardships if required to attend a full
 19 school day.

20 (c) Enrollment and attendance in vocational-educational training
 21 courses, college courses, school work programs, and other Department of
 22 Education sanctioned educational programs may be used to satisfy the
 23 requirements of this section even if the programs are not located at the
 24 public schools.

25 (d) Nothing in this section and § 6-18-210:

26 (1) Precludes a student who has met all graduation requirements
 27 from graduating early; or

28 (2) Requires a student who has graduated early from high school
 29 to continue to attend school.

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 31 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-18-213(a)(2), concerning the basic record
 32 of student attendance, is amended to read as follows:

33 (2) This basic record, showing the daily attendance and absence
 34 of each student for the school year, shall be kept by a teacher or other
 35 officially designated person who visually notes the physical presence
 36 attendance or absence of each student on a daily basis.

1 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-47-406(a)(2)(A) and (B), concerning
2 distance learning programs, is amended to read as follows:

3 (2) The student agrees to physically attend the public school or
4 open-enrollment public charter school for the purposes of taking+

5 ~~(A) A distance learning course taught through the public~~
6 ~~school or open enrollment public charter school; and~~

7 ~~(B) State state tests and assessments required for the~~
8 particular course or courses taken by the student; and

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11 **APPROVED: 04/04/2017**
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