1   State of Arkansas

2   89th General Assembly

A Bill

3   Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE BILL 1410

4

5   By: Representative Mayberry

6   By: Senator J. Woods

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8   **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9   AN ACT TO PROVIDE AUTHORITY FOR ARKANSAS PUBLIC

10   SCHOOLS TO OFFER AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AS A CREDIT-

11   BEARING MODERN LANGUAGE OR FOREIGN LANGUAGE; AND FOR

12   OTHER PURPOSES.

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15   **Subtitle**

16   TO PROVIDE AUTHORITY FOR ARKANSAS PUBLIC

17   SCHOOLS TO OFFER AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

18   AS A CREDIT-BEARING MODERN LANGUAGE OR

19   FOREIGN LANGUAGE.

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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 Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1, is amended

25   to add an additional section to read as follows:

26   6-16-142. American Sign Language as modern language or foreign

27   language.

28   (a) As used in this section, "American Sign Language" means the visual

29   natural language recognized globally that is linguistically complete with

30   unique rules for language structure and use, including without limitation

31   phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and discourse.

32   (b)(1) American Sign Language may be taught in the public schools of

33   the state as a modern language or foreign language.

34   (2) An American Sign Language course shall:

35   (A) Adhere to standards of rigor and proficiency

36   consistent with content standards and curriculum frameworks for foreign

1 language courses developed by the State Board of Education; and

2   (B) Receive academic credit equal to other foreign

3 language courses.

4   (c) The state board shall promulgate rules for the licensure and

5 curriculum requirements necessary to implement this section.

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8   **APPROVED: 03/11/2013**

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