

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

As Engrossed: H3/28/13
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2095

By: Representative Murdock

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO *REQUIRE THE REPORTING AND REVIEW OF DATA AND INFORMATION TO ASSIST THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN DETERMINING WHETHER TO ESTABLISH A MAXIMUM STUDENT TRANSPORTATION TIME; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE THE REPORTING AND REVIEW OF DATA AND INFORMATION TO ASSIST THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN DETERMINING WHETHER TO ESTABLISH A MAXIMUM STUDENT TRANSPORTATION TIME.

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

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) It is the duty of the State of Arkansas to provide a general, suitable, and efficient system of free public schools to the children of the state under Arkansas Constitution Article 14, § 1;

(2) The General Assembly is obligated to ensure the provision of an adequate and equitable system of education;

(3) Some Arkansas public school students, including some prekindergarten students, travel two (2) hours or more each way to and from school on a school bus;

(4) Research has shown that lengthy student transportation times:

(A) Impact the physical, emotional, and mental well-being



of students;

(B) Affect achievement levels;

(C) Reduce student time with parents at home;

(D) Limit opportunities to participate in after-school programs, extracurricular activities, and athletics; and

(E) May be linked to increased incidences of childhood asthma from exposure to bus fumes; and

(5) Student transportation times should be limited in a cost-efficient manner; and

(6) A study of student transportation times in Arkansas school districts should be conducted to determine the current costs related to school bus route times and of the costs related to proposed state maximums for student transportation time.

(b)(1) By July 1, 2014, all school districts shall report to the Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation in the manner prescribed by the division:

(A) For the school year 2013-2014, the following data for each regularly scheduled bus route to transport students to and from school:

(i) Number of school buses;

(ii) Type or size of school bus;

(iii) Linear route miles;

(iv) Number of students transported;

(v) The time of day each bus route begins; and

(vi) The longest period of time traveled one-way for a student on each route;

(vii) The average bus driver's salary for the school district; and

(viii) The average monthly payment for a bus financed over a ten-year period; and

(B) The changes required and the cost of the changes, if any, to implement the following maximum amount of time to transport a student to or from school:

(i) In the 2014-2015 school year, ninety (90) minutes;

(ii) In the 2015-2016 school year, eighty (80) minutes;

(iii) In the 2016-2017 school year, seventy (70) minutes;

(iv) In the 2017-2018 school year, sixty (60) minutes; and

(v) In the 2018-2019 school year, fifty (50) minutes.

(2) Each school district is encouraged to provide additional comments or information concerning the feasibility of implementing the maximum route times.

(c)(1) The division shall make the information received from school districts under this act available to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education through the Bureau of Legislative Research.

(2) The bureau, with the cooperation of the division, shall prepare and present to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education a report on the information and data collected under this act for consideration in the 2014 adequacy study.

/s/Murdock

APPROVED: 04/16/2013