

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 1412 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

As Engrossed: S4/6/13
A Bill

SENATE BILL 794

By: Senator L. Chesterfield

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE LEGISLATIVE REVIEW OF THE
ADMINISTRATIVE ANNEXATION OR CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOL
DISTRICTS OR ASSUMPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY
OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE LEGISLATIVE REVIEW OF THE
ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL
DISTRICTS OR ASSUMPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE
AUTHORITY OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT BY THE
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

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

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

6-13-112. Responsibilities of the State Board of Education and Commissioner of Education regarding school districts under state authority.

(a) Within ten (10) days of the meeting of the State Board of Education at which the state board assumes authority of a school district or within ten (10) days of the date upon which the Commissioner of Education assumes authority of a school district, the commissioner shall provide the following information to the chairs of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education:

(1) A clear statement of the reasons the district has been placed under the authority of the state board or the commissioner; and



(2) A clear statement of the steps necessary for the school district to remove itself from the authority of the state board or the commissioner.

(b)(1) Each quarter following the assumption of authority by the state board or commissioner, the commissioner shall provide to the chairs of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education, a status report indicating the progress of the school district toward removing itself from the authority of the state board or the commissioner.

(2) The commissioner also shall provide a copy of the status report required under subdivision (b)(1) of this section to each member of the General Assembly who represents the area in which the school district is located.

(c) A person appointed by the state board or the commissioner to operate a school district under the authority of the state board or the commissioner shall not have previously been an administrator responsible for a school district that was placed in fiscal distress, academic distress, facilities distress, or in violation of the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts.

(d)(1) After a school district has been under the authority of the state board or the commissioner for two (2) consecutive school years, the commissioner shall:

(A) Conduct a review of each person appointed by the state board or commissioner to operate the school district;

(B) Determine whether the person has made satisfactory progress toward removing the school district from the authority of the state board or the commissioner; and

(C) Determine whether the person should continue to operate the school district or be replaced.

(2) The commissioner shall report the results of this review to the state board and each member of the General Assembly who represents the area in which the school district is located.

(3) The report shall include a justification of the determination made under subdivision (d)(1) of this section.

(e) Before the appointment of an interim school board, permanent school board, or community advisory board for the school district under the authority of the state board or the commissioner, the commissioner or the

state board through the commissioner, shall seek recommendations for individuals to serve as members of the interim school board, permanent school board, or community advisory board from the members of the General Assembly who represent the area in which the school district is located.

/s/L. Chesterfield

APPROVED: 04/22/2013