

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

As Engrossed: H4/10/13
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1910

By: Representative C. Armstrong

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE HIRING OF TRUANCY OFFICERS FOR
CONTIGUOUS SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH HIGH DROPOUT RATES;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

*CONCERNING THE HIRING OF TRUANCY OFFICERS
FOR CONTIGUOUS SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH HIGH
DROPOUT RATES.*

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The General Assembly finds that:

(1) A regional community alternative learning environment center is a nonresidential school that serves students with educational limitations and deficiencies who are not currently served or are underserved by the students' resident school districts;

(2) The students served by a regional community alternative learning environment center:

(A) Come from high-priority school districts:

(i) With the most statistically significant dropout rates; and

(ii) That because of high rates of poverty and a tax base that is continually eroded by a declining population, do not have funds for additional truancy officers to ensure the attendance of students at a regional community alternative learning environment center; and

(B) Often have a family that provides insufficient support



for good school attendance; and

(3) By providing additional truancy officers for these school districts, the state helps to provide these students with the opportunity to:

(A) Be successful in school and become prepared for gainful employment or completion of a certification in a career or vocational area of study; and

(B) Strengthen family relationships by enabling the student to reside at home.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 11, Subchapter 2, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-11-209. Additional truancy officers.

(a) As used in this section, "school district with a high dropout rate" means an Arkansas school district that:

(1) Has the most statistically significant rate of dropouts;

(2) From which students may enroll in a regional community alternative learning environment center; and

(3) Is contiguous to other school districts that meet the criteria under subdivisions (a)(1) and (2) of this section.

(b) An education service cooperative may receive funding from a local law enforcement agency, a state agency, or a federal agency, or from private donations, to employ one (1) or more truancy officers for a school district with a high dropout rate.

(c) An education service cooperative may employ under this section:

(1) One (1) truancy officer for each school district with a high dropout rate in its service area that has a student population of one thousand (1,000) or fewer students; and

(2) Two (2) truancy officers for each school district with a high dropout rate in its service area that:

(A) Is a countywide school district; or

(B) Has a student population of more than one thousand (1,000) students.

(d) A truancy officer hired under this section shall complete:

(1) The training requirements for juvenile intake and probation officer certification through the Administrative Office of the Courts; and

(2) Twelve (12) hours of continuing education annually as

approved by the judge for the juvenile division of the circuit court for the county the truancy officer serves.

/s/C. Armstrong

APPROVED: 04/22/2013