

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1410

By: Representative Mayberry
By: Senator J. Woods

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE AUTHORITY FOR ARKANSAS PUBLIC
SCHOOLS TO OFFER AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AS A CREDIT-
BEARING MODERN LANGUAGE OR FOREIGN LANGUAGE; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO PROVIDE AUTHORITY FOR ARKANSAS PUBLIC
SCHOOLS TO OFFER AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE
AS A CREDIT-BEARING MODERN LANGUAGE OR
FOREIGN LANGUAGE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

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

(a) As used in this section, "American Sign Language" means the visual natural language recognized globally that is linguistically complete with unique rules for language structure and use, including without limitation phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and discourse.

(b)(1) American Sign Language may be taught in the public schools of the state as a modern language or foreign language.

(2) An American Sign Language course shall:

(A) Adhere to standards of rigor and proficiency consistent with content standards and curriculum frameworks for foreign



language courses developed by the State Board of Education; and

(B) Receive academic credit equal to other foreign language courses.

(c) The state board shall promulgate rules for the licensure and curriculum requirements necessary to implement this section.

APPROVED: 03/11/2013