

State of Arkansas
90th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2015

As Engrossed: S2/18/15
A Bill

SENATE BILL 325

By: Senator A. Clark

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ENSURE THAT A SCHOOL DISTRICT IS NOT IN VIOLATION OF THE STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION FOR ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS IF A SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFERS A COURSE BUT NO STUDENTS ENROLL IN THE COURSE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ENSURE THAT A SCHOOL DISTRICT IS NOT IN VIOLATION OF THE STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION FOR ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS IF A SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFERS A COURSE BUT NO STUDENTS ENROLL IN THE COURSE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-213 is amended to read as follows:

6-15-213. Course considered as taught under certain circumstances.

(a) If A course shall be considered as taught by a school district in compliance with the Standards of Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts if:

(1) a A course required to be taught by a school district under the State Board of Education's Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts ~~has:~~

(A) Has an enrollment of one (1) or more students and all students enrolled in the course leave the school district or drop the course after the course has commenced but before the completion of the course in



each given school year or school semester the course is to be taught ~~and if no other students that are eligible to take the course enroll to attend the school district campus where the course is required to be taught, the course shall be considered as taught by the school district in compliance with the standards for accreditation under the following conditions;~~ or

(B) The school district made the course available to students as required but no students signed up to take the course;

~~(1)~~(2) The school district superintendent certifies in writing that no student eligible to take the required course enrolled to attend the school district campus where the course was required to be taught after the initial student or students left the school district or that no eligible student enrolled in the course offered by the school district;

~~(2)~~(3) The school district provides written proof, as required by the Department of Education, that the school district had the course scheduled to be taught on the school district's master course schedule during the entire time the course was required to be taught;

~~(3)~~(4) The school district provides written proof, as required by the department, that the school district had a properly licensed teacher employed and able to teach the required course during the entire time the course was required to be taught onsite at the school district, by independent study, or has access to the course via distance education approved by the Department of Education, and the course was listed on the school district's master course schedule;

~~(4)~~(5) The department, upon review of proper records of the school district and information certified by the school district superintendent, confirms that the school district satisfied the requirements of subdivisions (a)(1)-(3) of this section and verifies that the information submitted pursuant to subdivisions (a)(1)-(3) of this section is correct.

~~(5)(A) At the end of the school semester in which the course was required to be taught, the school district petitions the state board in writing for a waiver of the standards for accreditation requirement that the particular course be taught for that school semester.~~

~~(B)(i) The superintendent and the school district board president of the school district seeking the waiver shall appear before the state board to present their request for a waiver.~~

~~(ii) Representatives of the department shall appear~~

~~before the state board to confirm and verify the information required to be filed with the department under this section.~~

~~(b)(1) Upon satisfaction of the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, the state board shall waive the requirement that the course be taught on a semester basis.~~

~~(2) The state board shall waive the requirement for only the semester in which the student or students left the school district.~~

/s/A. Clark

APPROVED: 03/31/2015