

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

SENATE BILL 371

By: Senator A. Clark

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL INTER-DISTRICT STUDENT
TRANSFERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL INTER-DISTRICT
STUDENT TRANSFERS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-18-203, concerning student attendance in a school district other than the student's school district of residence, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(e)(1) When a parent or guardian who while on active duty in or serving in the reserve component of a branch of the United States Armed Forces or National Guard relocates within the state due to a mobilization, deployment, or available military housing, the children of the parent or guardian may:

(A) Continue attending school in the school district the children were attending prior to the relocation; or

(B) Attend school in the school district where the children have relocated.

(2) A child enrolled in a school district under this subsection may complete all remaining school years at the enrolled school district, regardless of mobilization, deployment, or military status of the parent or guardian.



SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-18-316, concerning student inter-district transfer, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(h) Student transfers granted under this section constitute an independent agreement between the resident district and the receiving district and are not subject to the provisions and limitations of other student transfer laws.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-18-317(a), concerning prohibiting inter-district student transfers under certain circumstances, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Boards of directors of local school districts are prohibited from granting legal transfers under § 6-18-316 in the following situations when:

(1) ~~When either~~ Either the resident or the receiving district is under a desegregation-related court order ~~or has ever been under such a court order;~~ and

(2) The transfer in question would ~~negatively affect the racial balance of that district which is or has been under such a~~ violate the court order.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-18-318 is repealed.

~~6-18-318. Waiver of prohibition.~~

~~(a) Any district not currently under a desegregation-related court order, but which has been under such a court order in the past, may apply for a waiver of the prohibition set forth in § 6-18-317(a).~~

~~(b) The State Board of Education may grant such a district a waiver from the provisions of § 6-18-317(a) if it is determined that the district's desegregation status would not be adversely affected by allowing a legal transfer that would negatively affect the district's racial balance.~~

APPROVED: 04/06/2017