

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1102

By: Representative Evans

By: Senator J. Sturch

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS; TO REQUIRE ADDITIONAL TRAINING ON INFORMATION REGARDING SCHOOL SAFETY AND STUDENT DISCIPLINE; TO STANDARDIZE THE FORMAT OF THE REQUIRED REPORT REGARDING TRAINING REQUIREMENTS; TO INCREASE THE TIME BY WHICH A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER MAY CURE A TRAINING HOUR DEFICIENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE ADDITIONAL TRAINING ON SCHOOL SAFETY AND STUDENT DISCIPLINE FOR BOARD MEMBERS; TO STANDARDIZE THE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS REPORT; AND TO INCREASE THE TIME BY WHICH A BOARD MEMBER MAY CURE A TRAINING HOUR DEFICIENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-13-629(a)(1), concerning required training hours for school board members, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1)(A) A member of a local school district board of directors who has served on the board of directors for twelve (12) or more consecutive months shall obtain no less than six (6) hours of training and instruction by December 31 of each calendar year.

(B)(i) A member of a school district board of directors



elected for an initial or noncontinuous term shall obtain no less than nine (9) hours of training and instruction by December 31 of the calendar year following the year in which the member is elected.

(ii) The hours of training or instruction required under subdivision (a)(1)(B)(i) of this section shall include ~~training:~~

(a) Training or instruction on how to read and interpret an audit report under subdivision (a)(3)(A)(ii)(c) of this section; and

(b) Information regarding school safety and student discipline under subdivision (a)(3)(A)(iii) of this section.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-13-629(a)(2)(A)-(C), concerning required training for school board members, are amended to read as follows:

(2)(A)(i) The superintendent of each school district shall annually prepare a report of the training hours each individual school board member received ~~the previous calendar year and those carried forward from a previous year that were eligible to be counted towards the previous year~~ to be presented to the board at the board's regular January meeting.

(ii) The superintendent's report under subdivision (a)(2)(A)(i) of this section shall be presented in a table format with a row for each individual school board member that is followed by individual columns containing the following information:

(a) The number of training hours the school board member received between January 1 and December 31 of the previous year;

(b) The number of training hours carried forward from the previous year that were eligible to be counted towards the previous year;

(c) The sum of the number of training hours described in subdivision (a)(2)(A)(ii)(a) of this section and the number of training hours described in subdivision (a)(2)(A)(ii)(b) of this section; and

(d) The total number of training hours the board member is required to receive under subdivision (a)(1) of this section.

(iii) The superintendent's report under subdivision (a)(2)(A)(i) of this section shall not include:

(a) Any training hours a board member receives after December 31 of the previous year; or

(b) The training hours a board member accrues under subdivision (a)(2)(B)(i) of this section.

(B) Members who fail to receive or carry forward the required number of training hours shall be:

(i) Permitted from January 1 through thirty (30) days ~~from~~ following the date of the January board meeting to complete the deficient training hours; and

(ii) Suspended from participating in official business, except for school board training, until the board member obtains the deficient training hours.

(C) A board member who fails to cure the board member's training hours deficiency ~~within the thirty (30) days provided in~~ during the time provided under subdivision (a)(2)(B) of this section shall be removed from the board and the board member's position shall be filled in accordance with § 6-13-611 unless:

(i) The board member's failure to receive the required training during the time provided under subdivision (a)(2)(B) of this section was due to military service of the board member; or

(ii) The board member provides a written sworn statement from the board member's treating physician stating that the board member's failure to receive the required training during the time provided under subdivision (a)(2)(B) of this section was due to a serious medical condition.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-13-629(a)(3)(A)(iii), concerning training and instruction topics required for school board members, is amended to read as follows:

~~(iii)(a)~~ Information regarding school safety and student discipline.

~~(b) A member shall be required to complete the program in subdivision (a)(3)(A)(iii)(a) of this section only one (1) time.~~

APPROVED: 3/1/21