

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 663 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/8/21 H3/15/21 S3/31/21*
93rd General Assembly **A Bill**
Regular Session, 2021

HOUSE BILL 1451

By: Representatives Godfrey, Cozart, Evans, Vaught, Womack
By: Senators C. Tucker, Hester, L. Eads, J. Sturch, Elliott, B. Davis, Irvin

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE BASIC LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS; TO ALLOW A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT OR AN OPEN-ENROLLMENT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL TO ADOPT AN APPROVED BILINGUAL PROGRAM OR DUAL-IMMERSION PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ALLOW A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT OR AN OPEN-ENROLLMENT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL TO ADOPT AN APPROVED BILINGUAL PROGRAM OR DUAL-IMMERSION PROGRAM.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-16-104(a), concerning the language of instruction in public schools, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) The basic language of instruction in the public school branches in all the public schools of the state, ~~public and private~~, shall be the English language only.

(2) It shall not be a violation of this section for ~~an~~:

(A) An educator to communicate with a student in the student's native language in order to facilitate the student's ability to become proficient and learn in the English language; or

(B) A public school district or an open-enrollment public charter school to adopt a bilingual program or a dual-immersion program approved by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.



SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-16-104, concerning the basic language of instruction in public schools, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(c) As used in this section:

(1)(A) "Bilingual program" means a program that uses two (2) languages, a student's primary language and the English language, as a means of instruction.

(B) A bilingual program includes building upon a student's primary language skills and develops and expands the English language skills of each student to enable him or her to achieve proficiency in both languages, while providing access to content areas; and

(2) "Dual-immersion program" means a program that develops dual language proficiency in two (2) languages by offering a student instruction in English and instruction in another language in a classroom that is usually comprised of half native English speakers and half native speakers of the other language.

/s/Godfrey

APPROVED: 4/12/21