

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1477

By: Representative McLean

By: Senator J. Key

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ALLOW WAIVERS OF THE STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION OF ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMBINING OR EMBEDDING CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS INTO A SINGLE COMBINED OR EMBEDDED COURSE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ALLOW THE CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS FOR MULTIPLE COURSES TO BE COMBINED OR EMBEDDED IN A SINGLE COURSE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-202(b)(2), concerning the requirement for public schools and school districts to meet the Standards for Accreditation of Public Schools and School Districts, is amended to read as follows:

(2)(A) Except as provided under subdivisions (b)(2)(B)-(E) of this section, ~~Upon~~ upon a showing of just cause, the state board may grant a waiver of any standard for accreditation for a time period of no longer than one (1) school year, except that no curriculum, student performance, school performance, or any standard required by law may be waived for any time period.

(B) The state board may grant a waiver of a standard for accreditation for a time period of longer than one (1) school year to a school district for the purpose of combining or embedding the curriculum



frameworks from two (2) separate courses into one (1) combined or embedded course if:

(i) The school district timely makes an application for approval of the combined or embedded course to the department under the rules adopted by the state board;

(ii) The school district certifies in writing to the state board that all of the curriculum frameworks for the two (2) separate courses will be fully taught in the proposed combined or embedded course;

(iii) The department verifies in writing to the state board that all of the curriculum frameworks for the two (2) separate courses are included in the proposed combined or embedded course; and

(iv) The proposed combined or embedded course meets all requirements for course approval under the rules adopted by the state board.

(C) The state board shall only grant a waiver of a standard for accreditation for proposed combined or embedded courses in grades five (5) through twelve (12).

(D) If the state board subsequently revises the curriculum frameworks for either of the separate courses that are combined or embedded into a single course, a school district must submit a new waiver request for a combined or embedded course as set forth in subdivisions (b)(2)(B)-(C) of this section.

(E) It is a violation of the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts for a school to fail to teach the curriculum frameworks for each separate course that is combined or embedded into a single course.

(F) The state board shall promulgate rules necessary to administer subdivisions (b)(2)(B)-(E) of this section.