

State of Arkansas
90th General Assembly
Third Extraordinary Session, 2016

A Bill

Call Item 13
SENATE BILL 14

By: Senator J. English
By: Representative Cozart

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL AND SCHOOL DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM; TO PROVIDE A PAUSE IN CURRENT STATE ACCOUNTABILITY CLASSIFICATIONS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL AND SCHOOL DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM; TO PROVIDE A PAUSE IN CURRENT STATE ACCOUNTABILITY CLASSIFICATIONS; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE CODIFIED.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) On December 10, 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act, Pub. L. No. 114-95, was signed into law;

(2) The Every Student Succeeds Act, Pub. L. No. 114-95, allows a state to design its own accountability system to meet the needs of its students, the outcome of which will be a unified state and federal accountability system rather than accountability systems under state and federal law that use different measurements and have different consequences;

(3) During the 2016-2017 school year, the Department of Education will work with the United States Department of Education, local school districts, and stakeholders to create the new accountability system



for schools and school districts within Arkansas; and

(4) In order to facilitate the transition to a new accountability system, a pause in current state accountability identifications and classifications is necessary.

(b) For the 2016-2017 school year, the Department of Education shall not:

(1)(A) Identify additional schools or school districts as being in academic distress under § 6-15-428.

(B) The Department of Education may remove schools or school districts from academic distress status if the school or school district corrects all issues that caused the classification of academic distress; and

(2) Assign school ratings under § 6-15-2105.

(c) This section shall expire on June 30, 2017.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that federal law requires a change in state accountability systems for public schools and school districts; that the Department of Education must use the 2016-2017 school year to develop a new accountability system in order to comply with federal law; and that this act is immediately necessary to facilitate the transition to a new accountability system. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.