

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1461

By: Representative Wing
By: Senator Hester

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO EXPAND THE NUMBER OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS
ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUCCEED SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO EXPAND THE NUMBER OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS
ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUCCEED
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND TO DECLARE AN
EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-41-803(b)(1), concerning private school eligibility for the Succeed Scholarship Program, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The department shall approve a private school as eligible to participate in the program if the private school:

(1) Either:

(A) Meets the accreditation requirements set by the State Board of Education, the Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association or its successor, or another accrediting association recognized by the State Board of Education as providing services to severely disabled individuals; or

(B)(i) Is an associate member of or has applied for accreditation by the Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association or its successor, or another accrediting association recognized by the State Board



of Education as providing services to severely disabled individuals.

(ii) A private school shall no longer be eligible if:

(a) The private school has not received accreditation within four (4) years of becoming eligible under subdivision (b)(1)(B)(i) of this section;

(b) The accrediting association determines that the private school is ineligible or unable to continue the accreditation process; or

(c) It becomes impossible for the private school to obtain accreditation within four (4) years.

(iii) A private school that becomes ineligible under subdivision (b)(1)(B)(ii) of this section shall regain eligibility when the private school receives accreditation;

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that there is a demand for more private schools to participate in the Succeed Scholarship Program; that allowing private schools who have applied for accreditation to be eligible to participate in the program will help meet that demand; and that this act is immediately necessary to ensure that these newly eligible private schools can serve students who have received Succeed Scholarships in the 2017-2018 school year. 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.