

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas  
91st General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: S3/14/17

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 509

By: Senator Elliott

By: Representative Sabin

## For An Act To Be Entitled

*AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOLS IN SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT; TO REQUIRE A STUDY OF THE EFFECTS OF A POTENTIAL TAKEOVER OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR DISTRICT AND OF THE CLOSING OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

### Subtitle

*CONCERNING SCHOOLS IN SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT;  
AND TO REQUIRE A STUDY OF THE EFFECTS OF  
A POTENTIAL TAKEOVER OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL  
OR DISTRICT AND OF THE CLOSING OF A  
PUBLIC SCHOOL.*

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

*SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 13, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:*

*6-13-114. Community impact statement before closing a school.*

*(a) A public school district, in consultation with other appropriate public agencies, shall conduct the following before closing a school within the public school district:*

*(1) A community impact statement that studies and measures the potential impact on the public school district and the community at large that would result from closing the public school; and*

*(2) An assessment of educational, social, and economic conditions and other circumstances that exist outside of the classroom that affect the academic performance and achievement level of students in the*



public school and the number of students affected.

(b) The community impact statement and assessment of educational, social, and economic indicators and other circumstances under subsection (a) of this section shall be made available to the public on the public school district's website.

(c) The superintendent of the public school district shall present the findings of the community impact statement in a public meeting held in the public school district.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 13, Subchapter 14, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-13-1418. Community impact statement before closing a school.

(a) The Department of Education, in consultation with other appropriate public agencies, shall conduct the following before closing a public school as the result of a consolidation or annexation under this subchapter:

(1) A community impact statement that studies and measures the potential impact on the resulting district and the community at large that would result from closing the public school; and

(2) An assessment of educational, social, and economic conditions and other circumstances that exist outside of the classroom that affect the academic performance and achievement level of students in the public school and the number of students affected.

(b) The community impact statement and assessment of educational, social, and economic indicators and other circumstances under subsection (a) of this section shall be:

(1) Sent to the resulting district; and

(2) Made available to the public on the department's website.

(c) The Commissioner of Education and the superintendent of the resulting district shall present the findings of the community impact statement in a jointly held public meeting in the resulting district.

(d) This section does not apply to a voluntary consolidation or annexation under § 6-13-1416.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-15-104. Community impact statement for a school in school improvement.

(a) If a public school or public school district is classified as being in school improvement or a status in concordance with school improvement, the Department of Education, in consultation with other appropriate public agencies, shall conduct:

(A) A community impact statement that studies and measures the potential impact on the public school or public school district and the community at large that would result from the State Board of Education assuming authority over the public school or public school district; and

(B) An assessment of educational, social, and economic conditions and other circumstances that exist outside of the classroom that affect the academic performance and achievement level of students in the public school or public school district and the number of students affected.

(2) The community impact statement and assessment of educational, social, and economic indicators and other circumstances under subsection (a) of this section shall be:

(A) Sent to the public school or public school district classified as being in support status; and

(B) Made available to the public on the department's website.

(3) The Commissioner of Education and the superintendent of the public school district shall present the findings of the community impact statement in a jointly held public meeting in the public school district.

/s/Elliott