

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

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

A Bill

SENATE BILL 550

By: Senator Irvin

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION
FUNDING LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOL
EDUCATION FUNDING LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE.

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

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. K-12 Public School
Education Funding Legislative Task Force – Creation – Membership – Duties.

(a) There is created the K-12 Public School Education Funding
Legislative Task Force.

(b)(1) The task force shall consist of the following members of the
General Assembly:

(A) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate or his or her
designee who is a member of the Senate;

(B) Five (5) members of the Senate appointed by the
President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(C) The Senate Majority Leader or his or her designee who
is a member of the Senate;

(D) The Senate Minority Leader or his or her designee who
is a member of the Senate;

(E) The Speaker of the House of Representatives or his or
her designee who is a member of the House of Representatives;

(F) Five (5) members of the House of Representatives



appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(G) The House Majority Leader or his or her designee who is a member of the House of Representatives; and

(H) The House Minority Leader or his or her designee who is a member of the House of Representatives.

(2) If a vacancy occurs on the task force, the vacancy shall be filled by the same process as the original appointment.

(3) The members of the task force shall be paid per diem and mileage as authorized by law for attendance at meetings of interim committees of the General Assembly.

(c)(1) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall call the first meeting of the task force within thirty (30) days of sine die adjournment of the 2023 Regular Session.

(2) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a member of the task force to serve as chair of the first meeting of the task force.

(3) At the first meeting of the task force, the members of the task force shall elect from its membership a chair or co-chairs and other officers as needed for the transaction of its business.

(4)(A) The task force shall conduct its meetings in Pulaski County at the State Capitol or another site with teleconferencing capabilities.

(B) Meetings of the task force shall be held at least one (1) time every two (2) months but may occur more often at the call of the chair of the task force.

(5) The task force shall establish rules and procedures for conducting its business.

(6)(A) A majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a quorum for transacting business of the task force.

(B) An affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum present shall be required for the passage of a motion or other task force action.

(7) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff for the task force.

(d)(1) The purposes of the task force are to:

(A) Examine and identify areas of potential reform within the education funding laws of the State of Arkansas by:

(i) Considering the effects of changing education funding from a prior-year average daily membership funding model to a current-year average daily membership funding model;

(ii) Studying methodologies for addressing small school inequities caused by per-pupil funding for a model five-hundred-student school district; and

(iii) Determining the best methods for funding education based on research of best practices and current spending practices that lead to high levels of student performance; and

(B) Recommend legislation to the General Assembly for consideration during the 2025 regular session to address the issues described in subdivision (d)(1)(A) of this section.

(2) If the task force determines it is necessary, it may contract with one (1) or more outside consultants to assist the task force with its study.

(3)(A) On or before December 1, 2023, the task force shall file with the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate a written preliminary report of the task force's activities, findings, and recommendations.

(B) The task force shall file with the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate a final written report on or before September 1, 2024.

(e) The task force shall expire on December 31, 2024.