

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

State of Arkansas As Engrossed: S1/27/25 S2/5/25 S2/10/25 H4/7/25 H4/9/25

95th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2025

SENATE BILL 90

By: Senator J. English

By: Representative Brooks

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING MEETING REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARDS OF DIRECTORS; TO REQUIRE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO BE AFFORDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT PUBLIC COMMENT AT EACH MEETING OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO BE AFFORDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT PUBLIC COMMENT AT EACH MEETING OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-13-619, concerning meetings requirements for school district boards of directors, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(f)(1)(A) Prior to the consideration of any business or an executive session at a meeting of a board of directors, any member of the public shall be afforded the opportunity to give public comment on any matter that is within the powers and duties of the board of directors as provided under § 6-13-620 if the member of the public providing the public comment:

(i) Resides within the public school district;

(ii) Is a parent, legal guardian, or person standing in loco parentis to a student enrolled in the public school district; or

(iii) Is employed by the public school district.

(i) Resides within the public school district;



(ii) Is a parent, legal guardian, or person standing in loco parentis to a student enrolled in the public school district; or

(iii) Is employed by the public school district.

(B) However, a member of the public shall not provide public comment that prejudices the board of directors concerning a student or personnel matter that is on the agenda for the board of director's consideration of a disciplinary or employment action.

(2)(A) A board of directors shall not require prior approval for a member of the public to give public comment under subdivision (f)(1) of board of directors.

(3) A board of directors shall allow each member of the public who presents public comment under subdivision (f)(1)(A) of this section at least three (3) minutes to deliver his or her public comment.

(4) If the public comment period at the beginning of a board of directors meeting exceeds thirty (30) minutes, the board of directors may move public comment on matters within the powers and duties of the board of directors as provided under § 6-13-620 that are not on the board of directors meeting agenda for action to a time later in the board of directors meeting.

(B) However, a board of directors may utilize a sign-up sheet for members of the public providing public comment so long as the sign-up sheet is accessible to the public until the start of the meeting of the board of directors.

(3) A board of directors shall allow each member of the public who presents public comment under subdivision (f)(1)(A) of this section at least three (3) minutes to deliver his or her public comment.

(4) If the public comment period at the beginning of a board of directors meeting exceeds thirty (30) minutes, the board of directors may move public comment on matters within the powers and duties of the board of directors as provided under § 6-13-620 that are not on the board of directors meeting agenda for action to a time later in the board of directors meeting.

/s/J. English