

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1602

5 By: Representative Richmond
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE AUTHORITY OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL
9 DISTRICT TO IMPLEMENT A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK; TO
10 ALLOW A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT TO IMPLEMENT A SCHOOL
11 WEEK THAT IS NOT A FIVE-DAY SCHOOL WEEK; TO ALLOW A
12 PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT TO EXTEND THE SCHOOL DAY OR
13 SCHOOL YEAR TO ACCOMMODATE A SCHOOL WEEK THAT IS NOT
14 A FIVE-DAY SCHOOL WEEK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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18 TO ALLOW A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO IMPLEMENT A
19 SCHOOL WEEK THAT IS NOT A FIVE-DAY SCHOOL
20 WEEK; AND TO ALLOW A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO
21 EXTEND THE SCHOOL DAY OR SCHOOL YEAR TO
22 ACCOMMODATE A SCHOOL WEEK THAT IS NOT A
23 FIVE-DAY SCHOOL WEEK.
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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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28 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-10-106(c)(1), concerning the extension of
29 a school year within the statutory requirements for an established school
30 calendar, is amended to read as follows:

31 (c)(1)(A) If the school year in any school district extends beyond the
32 date observed as Memorial Day, such date shall be a holiday in the school
33 district.

34 (B) Subdivision (c)(1)(A) of this section shall not apply
35 to a public school district that implements a school week that is not a five-
36 day school week in any or all of the public schools in the public school



1 district if the public school district board of directors votes by majority
 2 vote to extend the school year in order to meet the total number of hours
 3 required by the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and
 4 School Districts in a five-day school week under § 6-10-117(e).

5
 6 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-10-117 is amended to read as follows:

7 6-10-117. ~~Four-day school~~ School week – Definition.

8 (a) It is found and determined by the General Assembly that granting
 9 local public school districts greater flexibility in scheduling instructional
 10 time can reap educational benefits for the students and financial rewards for
 11 the school district. ~~It is the intent of this section to authorize local~~

12 (b)(1) Each public school districts to district may initiate and
 13 maintain public school educational programs on a four-day school-week basis
 14 school week that is not a five-day school week as designated by the school
 15 district board of directors according to a majority vote of the school
 16 district board of directors in any of the public schools in the public school
 17 district, so long as which may include without limitation a four-day school
 18 week.

19 (2) However, planned instructional time is for the school year
 20 for a public school district that implements a school week that is not a
 21 five-day school week under subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall be in
 22 accord with requirements established by the State Board of Education.

23 ~~(b)(c)~~ As used in this section, “four-day school week that is not a
 24 five-day school week” means an educational program in which all students
 25 attend school for ~~four (4)~~ the number of days a week designated by a school
 26 district board of directors as permitted under subdivision (b)(1) of this
 27 section, but no fewer than the total number of hours required by the
 28 Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts
 29 in a five-day school week.

30 ~~(c) The board of directors of any school district is authorized to~~
 31 ~~initiate and maintain a four-day school week in any or all of the public~~
 32 ~~schools in the school district.~~

33 (d)(1) The State Board of Education state board shall establish
 34 appropriate standards, guidelines, and rules for the determination following
 35 for each public school district that implements a school week that is not a
 36 five-day school week for any of the public schools in its public school

1 district:

2 (A) The determination of average daily membership of
 3 public school districts; and for the

4 (B) The distribution of state aid to each local school
 5 district that elects to operate any or all of the public schools of its
 6 school district on a four-day school week basis, to.

7 (2) The state board shall provide the a public school district
 8 that implements a school week that is not a five-day school week for any of
 9 the public schools in its public school district with an equitable share of
 10 aid funds designated to equate a four-day school week school week that is not
 11 a five-day school week operation by the public school district to the
 12 educational opportunities provided by a public school district offering a
 13 five-day school week.

14 ~~(2)(3) Provided, however, that~~ However, a public school district
 15 shall not receive any more state financial aid for offering a four-day school
 16 week that is not a five-day school week of instruction than it would have
 17 received for offering a five-day school week of instruction.

18 (e) In order to meet the total number of hours required by the
 19 Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts
 20 in a five-day school week and in accordance with school calendar requirements
 21 under § 6-10-106, a public school district that implements a school week that
 22 is not a five-day school week for any of the public schools in its public
 23 school district may, by a majority vote of the school district board of
 24 direcotrs, extend the:

25 (1) School day, as defined by § 6-16-102(a)(1)(A); and

26 (2) School year.