

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to law as it existed prior to the 82nd General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 82nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1999
4

As Engrossed: S2/2/99 H2/12/99

A Bill

Act 769 of 1999
SENATE BILL 125

5 By: Senators Argue, D. Malone, Mahony, Riggs, Brown, Bisbee, Edwards, Bradford, Everett, *K. Smith*
6 By: Representatives Broadway, Cook, Ferrell, Salmon, Wilkins, Bond, T. Smith, J. Jeffress, G. Jeffress,
7 Simon, Pappas, French, Bookout, Kidd, Allison
8
9

For An Act To Be Entitled

11 "AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR ANNUAL INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL
12 PERFORMANCE REPORTS AND FOR DISTRIBUTION OF THE
13 REPORTS TO ALL PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF CHILDREN
14 ENROLLED IN ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND FOR OTHER
15 PURPOSES. "
16

Subtitle

17
18 "TO PROVIDE FOR ANNUAL INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL
19 PERFORMANCE REPORTS AND FOR DISTRIBUTION
20 OF THE REPORTS TO ALL PARENTS OR
21 GUARDIANS OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN
22 ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS. "
23
24

25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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27 SECTION 1. This act shall be known as and may be cited as the "School
28 Performance Report Act."
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30 SECTION 2. (a) In order to generally improve public school
31 accountability, to provide benchmarks for measuring individual school
32 improvement, and to empower parents and guardians of children enrolled in
33 Arkansas public schools by providing them with the information to judge the
34 quality of their schools, the Department of Education shall annually prepare
35 and publish a school performance report for each individual public school in
36 the state, including Arkansas School for the Deaf, Arkansas School for the

1 Blind, and Arkansas School for Mathematics and Science, and shall distribute
2 the report to every parent or guardian of a child in grades K-12 in the public
3 schools of Arkansas.

4 (b)(1) The annual school performance report shall be based on reliable
5 statistical information uniformly required to be collected and submitted by
6 each local school district to the Department of Education and shall be
7 published in a format that can be easily understood by parents or guardians
8 who are not professional educators and distributed to the parents or guardians
9 of children enrolled in the public schools via the postal service. Individual
10 school reports shall also be made available via the Internet. The information
11 necessary to produce the school performance report, including the names and
12 addresses of parents and guardians, shall be filed with the Department of
13 Education. The Department of Education is strongly encouraged to contract
14 with individuals or businesses knowledgeable in the areas of graphic and
15 computer design to ensure that the school performance reports required by this
16 act are published in a format that encourages their utilization by the
17 citizens of the state. The Department of Education may enter into a contract
18 arrangement with other parties in order to provide appropriate printing and
19 distribution services.

20 (2) The report for elementary schools shall include three (3)
21 year trend data and allow parents or guardians to compare the schools
22 performance with state and national averages in areas and shall include, but
23 not be limited to, the following measures:

- 24 (A) School safety;
25 (B) Discipline;
26 (C) Norm-referenced test results;
27 (D) Criterion-referenced test results;
28 (E) Percentage of students promoted to the next grade
29 level;
30 (F) Certified staff qualifications;
31 (G) Total per pupil spending;
32 (H) Assessment of the local taxpayer investment in the
33 school district;
34 (I) Percentage of students eligible to receive free or
35 reduced price meals;
36 (J) Average salary of the staff;

- 1 (K) Average attendance rates for students;
- 2 (3) The report for middle schools, junior high schools, and high
- 3 schools shall include three (3) year trend data and allow parents or guardians
- 4 to compare the school's performance with state and national averages in areas
- 5 which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
- 6 (A) School safety;
- 7 (B) Discipline;
- 8 (C) Norm-referenced test results;
- 9 (D) Criterion-referenced test results;
- 10 (E) Percentage of students promoted to the next grade
- 11 level;
- 12 (F) Certified staff qualifications;
- 13 (G) Per pupil spending;
- 14 (H) Assessment of the local taxpayer investment in the
- 15 school district;
- 16 (I) Percentage of students eligible to receive free or
- 17 reduced price meals;
- 18 (J) Average salary of the staff;
- 19 (K) Average attendance rates for students;
- 20 (L) Drop-out rate;
- 21 (M) Graduation or completion rates;
- 22 (N) College remediation rate (for high schools only); and
- 23 (O) Collegiate admission test results.
- 24 (c) School districts may prepare and distribute supplemental materials
- 25 concerning the information contained in the school performance reports.
- 26 (d) The Department of Education is encouraged to include with school
- 27 performance reports explanatory material regarding efforts to improve the
- 28 state's public schools. The Department of Education is also encouraged to
- 29 explore the feasibility of incorporating the school improvement plans
- 30 developed by schools and school districts with the school performance reports.
- 31 (e) The school performance report shall not include individual student
- 32 information if the information is reported in a manner which would identify a
- 33 particular student.
- 34 (f) The Department of Education shall not disclose parent or guardian
- 35 names, addresses or other identifying information under any circumstances, and
- 36 the Department of Education shall require any vendor, contractor or supplier

1 utilized to provide services under this act to sign a confidentiality
2 agreement which shall prohibit the disclosure of parent or guardian names,
3 addresses or other identifying information.

4 (g) The Arkansas School for the Blind and the Arkansas School for the
5 Deaf shall submit to the Department of Education the results of the
6 appropriately adopted student achievement tests for the students enrolled at
7 these schools. In addition, the Arkansas School for the Blind and the Arkasnas
8 School for the Deaf shall submit to the Department of Education a list of
9 other schools' programs to which these schools can be compared.

10 (h) The Department of Education is authorized to promulgate rules and
11 regulations reasonably necessary to carry out the purposes of this act
12 regarding the annual school performance report.

13 (i) The Department of Education shall issue the first annual school
14 performance report no later than September 15, 2000.

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16 SECTION 3. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
17 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
18 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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20 SECTION 4. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
21 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
22 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
23 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
24 act are declared to be severable.

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26 SECTION 5. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
27 hereby repealed.

28 /s/ Argue, et a

APPROVED: 3/22/1999