

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015
4

As Engrossed: S3/30/15

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1663

5 By: Representative Cozart
6 By: Senator J. English
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS
10 CODE CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING AMOUNTS; TO
11 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
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Subtitle

15 TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE
16 ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL
17 FUNDING AMOUNTS; AND TO DECLARE AN
18 EMERGENCY.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(a)(2), concerning per-student
24 foundation funding amounts, is amended to read as follows:

25 (2)(A) For the ~~2013-2014~~ 2015-2016 school year, the foundation
26 funding amount is equal to ~~six thousand three hundred ninety-three dollars~~
27 ~~(\$6,393)~~ six thousand five hundred eighty-four dollars (\$6,584) multiplied by
28 the school district's average daily membership for the previous school year.

29 (B) For the ~~2014-2015~~ 2016-2017 school year and each school
30 year thereafter, the foundation funding amount is equal to ~~six thousand five~~
31 ~~hundred twenty-one dollars (\$6,521)~~ six thousand six hundred forty-six
32 dollars (\$6,646) multiplied by the school district's average daily membership
33 for the previous school year.
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35 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(2)(A)(i) and (ii), concerning
36 per-student state categorical funding amounts for alternative learning



1 environments, are amended to read as follows:

2 (2)(A)(i) For the ~~2013-2014~~ 2015-2016 school year, alternative
3 learning environment funding shall be ~~four thousand three hundred five~~
4 ~~dollars (\$4,305)~~ four thousand four hundred seventy-one dollars (\$4,471)
5 multiplied by the number of identified alternative learning environment
6 students enrolled during the previous school year.

7 (ii) For the ~~2014-2015~~ 2016-2017 school year and each
8 school year thereafter, alternative learning environment funding shall be
9 ~~four thousand three hundred eighty three dollars (\$4,383)~~ four thousand five
10 hundred sixty dollars (\$4,560) multiplied by the number of identified
11 alternative learning environment students enrolled during the previous school
12 year.

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14 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(3)(A) and (B), concerning per-
15 student state categorical funding amounts for English-language learners, are
16 amended to read as follows:

17 (3)(A) For the ~~2013-2014~~ 2015-2016 school year, funding for students
18 who are identified as English-language learners shall be ~~three hundred eleven~~
19 ~~dollars (\$311)~~ three hundred twenty-four dollars (\$324) for each identified
20 English-language learner.

21 (B) For the ~~2014-2015~~ 2016-2017 school year and each school
22 year thereafter, funding for students who are identified as English-language
23 learners shall be ~~three hundred seventeen dollars (\$317)~~ three hundred
24 thirty-one dollars (\$331) for each identified English-language learner.

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26 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(4)(A)(i)-(iii), concerning
27 per-student state categorical funding amounts for national school lunch
28 students, are amended to read as follows:

29 (4)(A) National school lunch state categorical funding for each
30 identified national school lunch student shall be as follows:

31 (i) For a school district in which ninety percent
32 (90%) or greater of the previous school year's enrolled students are national
33 school lunch students, the amount of per-student national school lunch state
34 categorical funding is ~~one thousand five hundred forty nine dollars (\$1,549):~~

35 (a) For the 2015-2016 school year, one
36 thousand five hundred sixty-two dollars (\$1,562) and

1 (b) For the 2016-2017 school year, one
2 thousand five hundred seventy-six dollars (\$1,576);

3 (ii) For school districts in which at least seventy
4 percent (70%) but less than ninety percent (90%) of the previous school
5 year's enrolled students are national school lunch students, the amount of
6 per-student national school lunch state categorical funding is ~~one thousand~~
7 ~~thirty three dollars (\$1,033);~~

8 (a) For the 2015-2016 school year, one
9 thousand forty-two dollars (\$1,042); and

10 (b) For the 2016-2017 school year, one
11 thousand fifty-one dollars (\$1,051); and

12 (iii) For school districts in which less than seventy
13 percent (70%) of the previous school year's enrolled students are national
14 school lunch students, the amount of per-student national school lunch state
15 categorical funding is ~~five hundred seventeen dollars (\$517);~~

16 (a) For the 2015-2016 school year, five
17 hundred twenty-two dollars (\$522); and

18 (b) For the 2016-2017 school year, five
19 hundred twenty-six dollars (\$526).

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21 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(5)(A) and (B), concerning per-
22 student state categorical funding amounts for professional development, are
23 amended to read as follows:

24 ~~(5)(A)(5)~~ For the 2013-2014 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school year
25 years, professional development funding shall be equal to an amount of up to
26 fifty three dollars (\$53.00) thirty-two dollars and forty cents (\$32.40)
27 multiplied by the school district's previous school year average daily
28 membership.

29 ~~(B) For the 2014-2015 school year and each school year~~
30 ~~thereafter, professional development funding shall be equal to an amount of~~
31 ~~up to fifty four dollars (\$54.00) multiplied by the school district's~~
32 ~~previous school year average daily membership.~~

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34 SECTION 6. DO NOT CODIFY. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE.

35 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

36 (1) It is the duty of the state to provide a general, suitable,

1 and efficient system of free public schools to the children of the state
2 under Arkansas Constitution Article 14, § 1;

3 (2) The General Assembly is obligated to ensure that an adequate
4 and equitable system of education is provided;

5 (3) Student transportation may be a necessary component for
6 providing a student with an equitable opportunity for an adequate education
7 to the extent that a student would not otherwise be able to realize this
8 opportunity but for transportation being provided by the state;

9 (4) Analyzing the portion of student transportation funding is
10 required for adequacy purposes and is a highly complex, fact-intensive study
11 that requires the analysis of many factors such as student characteristics,
12 bus routes, route miles, and a variety of other factors;

13 (5)(A) In "A Report on Legislative Hearings for the 2014 Interim
14 Study on Education Adequacy", the House Committee on Education and the Senate
15 Committee on Education found that transportation funding should continue to
16 be funded at the same levels for the 2016 and 2017 fiscal years.

17 (B) The House Committee on Education and the Senate
18 Committee on Education also recommended the creation of a separate
19 supplemental transportation funding program for school districts with high
20 transportation costs to be distributed using a transportation funding model
21 developed by the Bureau of Legislative Research;

22 (6) The transportation funding model developed by the Bureau of
23 Legislative Research would result in one hundred (100) of two hundred thirty-
24 six (236) school districts not receiving any supplemental transportation
25 funds;

26 (7) The Bureau of Legislative Research dedicated extensive time
27 and effort toward the development of the transportation funding model and the
28 General Assembly is extremely grateful for those efforts;

29 (8) The transportation funding model developed by the Bureau of
30 Legislative Research may be the best evidence-based method for the
31 distribution of supplemental transportation funding; and

32 (9) The General Assembly requires additional time to study the
33 transportation funding model developed by the Bureau of Legislative Research
34 before implementing the findings and recommendations of the House Committee
35 on Education and the Senate Committee on Education.

36 (b) The House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on

1 Education, in conjunction with the Bureau of Legislative Research, shall
2 conduct a review of the transportation funding model developed by the Bureau
3 of Legislative Research and make recommendations to the Ninetieth General
4 Assembly for consideration during the 2016 fiscal session.

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6 SECTION 7. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
7 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that funding for public schools is
8 the obligation of the state; that ensuring adequate funding is provided is
9 the duty of the General Assembly; and that this act is immediately necessary
10 to ensure that funding is provided for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school
11 years so that school districts can budget accordingly. Therefore, an
12 emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for
13 the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become
14 effective on:

15 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

16 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
17 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
18 bill; or

19 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
20 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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22 /s/Cozart
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