

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

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: S3/23/99*

82nd General Assembly

A Bill

Act 1298 of 1999

Regular Session, 1999

SENATE BILL 832

By: Senator Gordon

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO PROVIDE DISTANCE LEARNING IN THE STATE; TO
CREATE THE ARKANSAS INTERAGENCY DISTANCE LEARNING
REVIEW COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

"AN ACT TO PROVIDE DISTANCE LEARNING IN
THE STATE."

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

SECTION 1. Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the
planning and implementation of distance learning should create opportunities
for innovation in education, transform institutional behavior, and prepare
students for participation in the information age economy.

SECTION 2. (a) The Department of Education shall plan for the statewide
implementation of distance learning in elementary and secondary public schools.

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7 in the state.

3 (b) The elementary or secondary school may utilize courses from outside
2 the state; however, the course curriculum shall be reviewed by the Department
1 of Education or the Department of Workforce Education prior to offering the
courses through distance learning.

2 (c) The courses offered through distance learning may include college
3 preparatory courses, advanced mathematics and science courses, and
4 technological courses.

5 (d) The Department of Education shall work with the Arkansas School for
5 Mathematics and Sciences, the Arkansas Educational Television Commission, the

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Education Service Cooperatives, the State Library, and other state agencies
involved in distance learning.

SECTION 3. The Department of Higher Education shall coordinate the
implementation of distance learning at the state's public institutions of
higher education.

SECTION 4. The Department of Workforce Education shall cooperate with
the Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education to
implement distance learning throughout the state.

SECTION 5. (a) There is established the Arkansas Interagency Distance
3 Learning Review Commission. The purpose of the commission is to review the
4 state's comprehensive distance learning program in order to compile a complete
5 catalogue of available distance learning opportunities, address statewide
5 policy issues regarding the coordination of services and foster coordination
7 and cooperation in the delivery of services.

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3 (b) The membership of the Arkansas Interagency Distance Learning Review

4 Committee shall include:

5 (1) The director of the Arkansas Department of Education;

6 (2) The director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education;

7 (3) The director of the Arkansas Department of Workforce

8 Education;

9 (4) The director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission;

10 (5) The director of the Arkansas Department of Information

11 Systems; and

12 (6) The co-chair of the Executive Council of Presidents and

13 Chancellors.

14 (c) The commission shall meet on a regular basis and shall make

15 recommendations to the House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate

16 Interim Committee on Education by August 1 of the year preceding the year in

17 which the regular session of the General Assembly is held regarding the

18 performance and coordination of the state's program of distance learning.

19 (d) Staff support shall be provided by the appropriate personnel from

20 the Department of Education, the state's public institutions of higher

21 education, the Department of Higher Education, and the Department of Workforce

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23 Education, with the assistance of any appropriate staff of the other agencies

24 whose directors serve on the commission.

25 SECTION 6. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
26 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
27 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

28 SECTION 7. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to

any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 8. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
hereby repealed.

/s/ Gordon

APPROVED: 4/9/1999

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