

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.
Act 1314 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2164

4
5 By: Representative Rainey
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE COMMISSION ON CLOSING THE
10 ACHIEVEMENT GAP IN ARKANSAS; TO PROVIDE TRAINING
11 FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON CLOSING THE
12 ACHIEVEMENT GAP IN ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER
13 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15
16 TO AMEND THE COMMISSION ON CLOSING THE
17 ACHIEVEMENT GAP IN ARKANSAS AND TO
18 PROVIDE TRAINING FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE
19 COMMISSION ON CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT
20 GAP IN ARKANSAS.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1601(b) concerning membership is
26 amended to read as follows:

27 (b) The commission shall consist of ~~twelve (12)~~ eleven (11) members
28 representing the racial and ethnic diversity of Arkansas as follows:

29 (1)(A) ~~Four (4)~~ Five (5) persons appointed by the Governor.

30 (B)(i) ~~One (1) of the Governor's appointees shall be a~~
31 ~~member of the faculty of an historically black college in the state who has~~
32 ~~demonstrated an interest in and commitment to working with disadvantaged~~
33 ~~youth.~~

34 ~~(ii) One (1) of the Governor's appointees shall be~~
35 ~~an Hispanic who has demonstrated a commitment to education.~~



1 ~~(iii)~~ One (1) of the Governor's appointees shall be
 2 a representative of business and industry in Arkansas, ~~and~~

3 ~~(iv)~~ ~~One (1) of the Governor's appointees may be a~~
 4 representative of health and human services, ~~or a public school teacher,~~

5 (ii)(a) Four (4) of the Governor's appointees shall
 6 be minority or low-income parents concerned about the achievement gap with
 7 one (1) representative from each of the four (4) congressional districts.

8 (b) A minimum of two (2) of the individuals
 9 appointed under subdivision (b)(1)(B)(ii)(a) of this section shall be African
 10 American.

11 (c) A minimum of one (1) of the individuals
 12 appointed under subdivision (b)(1)(B)(ii)(a) of this section shall be
 13 Hispanic.

14 (2)(A) ~~Four (4)~~ Three (3) persons appointed by the President Pro
 15 Tempore of the Senate.

16 (B)(i) One (1) of the President Pro Tempore's appointees
 17 shall be a member of the school of education faculty of an historically black
 18 college in the state with an accredited school of education.

19 (ii) One (1) of the President Pro Tempore's
 20 appointees shall be a minority who has demonstrated a commitment to
 21 education, ~~and~~

22 (iii) One (1) of the President Pro Tempore's
 23 appointees shall be a public school teacher with a special expertise in
 24 closing the achievement gap,

25 (3)(A) ~~Four (4)~~ Three (3) persons appointed by the Speaker of
 26 the House of Representatives.

27 (B)(i) One (1) of the Speaker of the House of
 28 Representatives' appointees shall be a person who has experience working with
 29 children from low income families.

30 (ii) One (1) of the Speaker of the House of
 31 Representatives' appointees shall be a minority who has demonstrated a
 32 commitment to education.

33 (iii) One (1) of the Speaker of the House of
 34 Representatives' appointees shall be a public school administrator with a
 35 special expertise in closing the achievement gap.

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SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1601(f) and (g) concerning unexcused absences, meetings, and duties is amended to read as follows:

(f)(1) The commission shall meet at times and places the chair deems necessary but no fewer than four (4) times per calendar year.

(2)(A) Commission members shall attend all meetings with no more than ~~one (1)~~ two (2) unexcused ~~absence~~ absences in a period of eighteen (18) months.

(B) Commission members with more than two (2) unexcused absences in a period of eighteen (18) months shall be automatically removed from the commission and the original nominating entity for the position shall be notified to fill the vacancy.

(3) No meetings shall be held outside the State of Arkansas.

(4) A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business.

(5) All actions of the commission shall be by a majority vote of the full membership of the commission.

(6) A minimum of one (1) meeting shall be held in each of the four (4) congressional districts every thirty-six (36) months.

(g) The commission shall:

(1) Develop a plan for the state designed to enable all public school students to meet the state’s student academic achievement standards while working toward the goal of narrowing the achievement gaps in public schools for the following subgroups:

- (A) Economically disadvantaged students; and
- (B) Students from major racial and ethnic groups;

(2) Monitor the Department of Education’s efforts to comply with federal guidelines on improving the academic achievement of the disadvantaged, specifically including, but not limited to, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001;

(3)(A) Monitor the department’s identification of population groups to be motivated in closing the achievement gap efforts.

(B) The commission may expand the role and scope of the commission to cover specific population groups as identified by the department as target groups for closing the achievement gaps, ~~and.~~

(4) Receive national school lunch data and reports biennially

1 from the Department of Education.

2 (5) Interface with local school district achievement gap
 3 taskforces created under § 6-15-1603 to provide data on the achievement gap
 4 and achievement gap intervention strategies;

5 ~~(4)~~(6) File Present a report with the chairs of to the House
 6 Interim Committee on Education and the Senate Interim Committee on Education,
 7 the Governor, and the State Board of Education no later than November 1 of
 8 each year, which shall include without limitation:

9 (A) Profiles of underachieving students;

10 (B) Profiles of chronically under performing schools and
 11 school districts;

12 (C) A review of policies and programs approved by the
 13 Department of Education for national school lunch expenditures on closing the
 14 achievement gap;

15 (D) Child poverty statistics in the state and the impact
 16 poverty has on education;

17 (E) Successful strategies with students of poverty;

18 (F) Best practices for teacher preparation for student and
 19 language diversity;

20 (G) A review of leadership challenges in closing the
 21 achievement gap; and

22 (H) Suggested policy changes to improve the achievement
 23 gap at the legislative, Department of Education, school district, and other
 24 levels; and

25 ~~(5)~~(7) Create a website that contains without limitation:

26 (A) Notices of upcoming meetings;

27 (B) The state plan for closing the achievement gap;

28 (C) A school district plan for closing the achievement gap
 29 from each school district;

30 (D) The membership and contact information for members of
 31 the commission and each local school district achievement gap taskforce;

32 (E) The minutes from commission meetings;

33 (F) A clearinghouse for research and other information the
 34 commission identifies as important or useful for understanding the
 35 achievement gap in the state; and

36 (G) Other information that the commission deems

1 appropriate.

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3 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1601, concerning the
4 Commission on Closing the Achievement Gap in Arkansas, is amended to add an
5 additional subsection to read as follows:

6 (1) The commission may accept gifts, grants, and donations for use in
7 carrying out the purpose and duties of the commission.

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9 APPROVED: 4/9/2009

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