

1 State of Arkansas
2 81st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1997

As Engrossed: H1/16/97 H2/6/97 S3/5/97

A Bill
ACT 787 of 1997

HOUSE BILL 1111

4
5 By: Representatives Madison, Jones, McGee, McJunkin, Willems, Northcutt, Whorton, Judy Smith, Wilkins,
6 Brown, Wilkinson, Ammons, Ferrell, Pollan, Hall, Dietz, Hunton, Angel, Vess, Sheppard, Critcher, Wallis,
7 Schexnayder, Bush, Pappas, McKissack, Laverty, Magnus, Allison, Trammell, Terry Smith, and Broadway

8
9 By: Senators Fitch, Bradford, Harriman, Bearden, Webb, Smith, Hunter, Scott, Walters, and Todd

For An Act To Be Entitled

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14 "AN ACT TO REQUIRE EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL TO TEACH COURSES IN
15 ARKANSAS HISTORY; TO PRESCRIBE CERTAIN EDUCATION
16 REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION AS ELEMENTARY TEACHERS AND
17 SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHERS; TO REQUIRE EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL TO
18 ANNUALLY CERTIFY ITS COMPLIANCE WITH THIS ACT; TO DECLARE
19 AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

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21
22 "REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO TEACH
23 ARKANSAS HISTORY; AND FOR OTHER
24 PURPOSES."

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

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28 SECTION 1. Beginning with the 1997-98 school year: (a) a unit of
29 Arkansas history shall be taught as a social studies subject at each
30 elementary grade level in every public elementary school in this state with
31 greater emphasis at the fourth (4th) and fifth (5th) grade levels, and (b) at
32 least one (1) full semester of Arkansas history shall be taught to all
33 students at the seventh (7th), eighth (8th), ninth (9th), tenth (10th),
34 eleventh (11th), or twelfth (12) grade level in every public secondary school
35 in this state.
36

PRESIDENT OF SENATE

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1 SECTION 2. The Director of the General Education Division of the State
 2 Department of Education shall prepare and distribute no later than July 1,
 3 1997, to each public school in this state and to the House and Senate Interim
 4 Committees on Education the course content guidelines for courses in Arkansas
 5 history to be taught by the public schools of this state. Course guidelines
 6 shall ensure that the courses represent the most accurate and historically
 7 sound account of the pre-history, history and culture of Arkansas including
 8 the significant contributions and achievements of all segments of the
 9 population. Any revisions in the Arkansas history course content guidelines
 10 shall be reported to the public schools and the House and Senate Interim
 11 Committees on Education no later than July 1 of the year the course guidelines
 12 are to be implemented.

13
 14 SECTION 3. Beginning July 1, 2001, no person shall be certified as a
 15 social studies teacher or as an elementary school teacher unless such person
 16 has successfully completed at least three (3) hours of college course work in
 17 Arkansas history. However, Social Studies teachers and elementary school
 18 teachers entering Arkansas from another state shall receive a one-year
 19 nonrenewable provisional certificate to teach in Arkansas schools as
 20 authorized by § 6-17-403. The provisions of this section are not applicable
 21 to recertification of teachers certified prior to the effective date of this
 22 act.

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 24 SECTION 4. Every public school district in this state shall provide
 25 substantive and meaningful in-service training in Arkansas history for its
 26 teachers. The district may contract with an Education Service Cooperative to
 27 provide the training.

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 29 SECTION 5. (a) Each public school superintendent in this state shall
 30 certify to the State Department of Education no later than June 1, 1998 and
 31 annually thereafter whether the school is in compliance with this act.

32 (b) The Director of the General Education Division of the State
 33 Department of Education shall report no later than July 1st of each year to
 34 the House and Senate Interim Committees on Education the identity of the
 35 schools which have reported compliance with this act, the identity of the
 36 schools which have reported non-compliance, and the identity of the schools

PRESIDENT OF SENATE

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 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

1 which have failed to report.

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

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7 SECTION 7. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
8 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
9 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
10 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
11 act are declared to be severable.

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

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16 SECTION 9. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the
17 General Assembly that the Arkansas Code does not now require Arkansas history
18 to be taught in the public schools in this state; that Arkansas history is not
19 being taught in all public schools in this state; that such failure must be
20 addressed as soon as possible; that this act establishes the mechanism to
21 ensure that Arkansas history is taught in each public school in this state and
22 that this act should go into effect immediately in order that it might be
23 implemented in the 1997-98 school year. Therefore an emergency is declared to
24 exist and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the
25 public peace, health and safety shall become effective on the date of its
26 approval by the Governor. If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the
27 Governor, it shall become effective on the expiration of the period of time
28 during which the Governor may veto the bill. If the bill is vetoed by the
29 Governor and the veto is overridden, it shall become effective on the date the
30 last house overrides the veto.

/s/Rep. Madison et al

APPROVED Nike Madison
3-24-97 GOVERNOR

Timothy L. Brogna
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

PRESIDENT OF SENATE

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