

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1739

5 By: Representative Harris
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO STUDY THE BEST WAY TO MEET THE
9 CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUPPORT
10 OF INSTITUTIONS FOR THE EDUCATION OF STUDENTS WHO ARE
11 DEAF AND STUDENTS WHO ARE BLIND; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 ACT TO STUDY THE BEST WAY TO MEET THE
16 CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE FOR
17 THE SUPPORT OF INSTITUTIONS FOR THE
18 EDUCATION OF STUDENTS WHO ARE DEAF AND
19 STUDENTS WHO ARE BLIND.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY.

26 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

27 (1) Article 19, § 19 of the Arkansas Constitution states in
28 part, "It shall be the duty of the General Assembly to provide by law for the
29 support of institutions for the education of the deaf and dumb, and of the
30 blind";

31 (2) Since the 1850s, the General Assembly has satisfied this
32 constitutional obligation by supporting the Arkansas School for the Blind and
33 the Arkansas School for the Deaf; and

34 (3) With the advances in education for children with special
35 educational needs, it is time to study and reassess the best method for the
36 General Assembly to meet its constitutional duty to provide for the education



1 of these students.

2 (b) The House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on
 3 Education shall jointly study during the interim issues relevant to the
 4 education of students who are blind and students who are deaf currently
 5 provided by the Arkansas School for the Blind and the Arkansas School for the
 6 Deaf and report the committees' findings to the Speaker of the House of
 7 Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate not later than
 8 October 1, 2014.

9 (c) The study of the education of students who are blind and students
 10 who are deaf shall consider without limitation:

11 (1) The educational needs of students who are blind and students
 12 who are deaf;

13 (2) The available options for educating blind and deaf students;

14 (3) The meaning of the constitutional requirement to "provide by
 15 law for the support of institutions for the education of the deaf and dumb,
 16 and of the blind";

17 (4) The costs to the state for supporting the Arkansas School
 18 for the Blind and the Arkansas School for the Deaf;

19 (5) The effectiveness of the educational services provided by
 20 the Arkansas School for the Blind and the Arkansas School for the Deaf; and

21 (6) Possible actions the General Assembly could take to improve
 22 the educational options for students who are blind and students who are deaf
 23 while satisfying its constitutional duty.

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