

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

As Engrossed: S3/26/13

A Bill

SENATE BILL 834

5 By: Senator J. Key
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND *THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC EDUCATION ACT, §*
9 *6-15-1001 ET SEQ.; TO SUPPORT THE STATE'S GOAL OF*
10 *ACHIEVING STUDENT COMPETENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND*
11 *TECHNOLOGY; TO INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PUBLIC*
12 *SCHOOL EDUCATION THROUGH TECHNOLOGY; AND FOR OTHER*
13 *PURPOSES.*
14

Subtitle

15
16
17 *TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC EDUCATION*
18 *ACT OF 1997.*
19

20
21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
22

23 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 10, is*
24 *amended to add an additional section to read as follows:*

25 *6-15-1013. Internet connectivity in public schools.*

26 *(a) The General Assembly finds that:*

27 *(1) The Senate Committee on Education and House Committee on*
28 *Education received testimony during the 2012 adequacy study concerning the*
29 *need for greater public school access to high speed Internet statewide and*
30 *that access to the Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network was not*
31 *available to public schools; and*

32 *(2) The availability to a public school of the resources of the*
33 *Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network is a vital component of*
34 *accomplishing the state's goal under § 6-15-1003(b)(3) that students will*
35 *achieve competence in computer science and other technologies.*

36 *(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a school district may*



1 apply for associate membership in the Arkansas Research and Education Optical
2 Network to obtain education technology services and applications, including
3 without limitation services that provide broadband internet access, promote
4 low latency, and promote school district network security.

5 (c) The Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network may condition
6 approval for associate membership on the funding available to and staffing
7 levels of the Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network.

8 (d) A school district entering into an agreement for services under
9 this section is responsible for:

10 (1) Physical connectivity to the point of presence on the
11 Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network;

12 (2) Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network associate
13 membership fees; and

14 (3) Fees for services provided by the Arkansas Research and
15 Education Optical Network.

16
17 /s/J. Key
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36