

1 State of Arkansas  
2 90th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2015

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1967

4  
5 By: Representative Bentley

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO  
9 DISCONTINUE THE ADOPTION OF THE NEXT GENERATION  
10 SCIENCE STANDARDS; TO MAINTAIN THE CURRENT SCIENCE  
11 STANDARDS AND ONLY MAKE REVISIONS TO THE CURRENT  
12 STANDARDS WITH SCIENCE STANDARDS THAT ARE SUPERIOR TO  
13 THE ONES CURRENTLY IN PLACE; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY;  
14 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

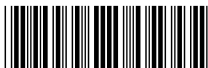
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18 TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
19 TO DISCONTINUE THE ADOPTION OF THE NEXT  
20 GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS; AND TO  
21 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

### SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY.

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27 (a)(1) The Thomas B. Fordham Institute, which testified in favor of  
28 Common Core State Standards at the Joint Education Committee meeting in July  
29 2013, has conducted significant research comparing the quality of state  
30 standards with Common Core State Standards.

31 (2) Their reports include Final Evaluation of the Next  
32 Generation Science Standards, released on June 13, 2013, followed by  
33 Commentary on Appendix L: Alignment of the Next Generation Science Standards  
34 with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics, released on August 20,  
35 2013, which compare Next Generation Science Standards to current state  
36 science standards.



1       (b)(1) The Next Generation Science Standards were released in April  
2 2013.

3               (2) The Fordham Institute evaluated Next Generation Science  
4 Standards compared with all existing state standards, the District of  
5 Columbia and two international science standards. They reported, "We  
6 released that evaluation in June. It was the considered opinion of the review  
7 team based on our criteria, that the Next Generation Science Standards  
8 deserve a "C" grade. Among the serious challenges the analysts found in the  
9 Next Generation Science Standards was an acute dearth of math content, even  
10 in situations where math is essential to the study and proper understanding  
11 of the science that students are being asked to master. The failure to  
12 include essential math content is particularly troubling in light of  
13 statements by the authors of the Next Generation Science Standards that they  
14 intended to integrate mathematics into their new science expectations."

15       (c) Fordham's evaluation found the current science standards of twelve  
16 (12) states (including Arkansas whose current science standards earned a  
17 grade of "B") and the District of Columbia are "clearly superior" to Next  
18 Generation Science Standards.

19       (d) For states that desire to improve science standards the Fordham  
20 study advised, "If they are bent on replacing their science standards, the  
21 Next Generation Science Standards is not the only available option, nor is it  
22 necessarily the best one. We've noted previously six states received grades  
23 of A or A- from Fordham's reviewers for their present science standards.  
24 Other states might do well simply to adopt their standards."

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26       SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 1, is amended  
27 to add an additional section to read as follows:

28       6-15-103. Science standards.

29       (a) The State Board of Education shall immediately discontinue any and  
30 all efforts to endorse, adopt, rebrand, and implement the Next Generation  
31 Science Standards.

32       (b) The state board shall continue to use the science standards  
33 currently in place and only revise the current standards with science  
34 standards that have been nationally recognized as superior to the science  
35 standards already adopted.

36       (c) A comprehensive set of standards shall not be endorsed, adopted or

1 implemented until a complete set of the standards is available for the  
2 review, comment, and approval process, which shall include the state board,  
3 the Department of Education, the Senate Committee on Education, the House  
4 Committee on Education, and the public.

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6 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
7 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that experts around the country  
8 have studied the Next Generation Science Standards and have determined that  
9 they are flawed; that the current science standards in the state are superior  
10 to the Next Generation Science Standards; and that this act is immediately  
11 necessary to prevent further adoption and implementation of the inferior Next  
12 Generation Science Standards. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist,  
13 and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public  
14 peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

15 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

16 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
17 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the  
18 bill; or

19 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
20 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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