

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 364

5 By: Senators C. Tucker, L. Chesterfield, F. Love
6 By: Representatives V. Flowers, T. Shephard, Ennett, McCullough, F. Allen, A. Collins, Hudson,
7 Springer
8

For An Act To Be Entitled

9
10 AN ACT CONCERNING A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT UNDER THE
11 AUTHORITY OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; TO
12 ESTABLISH THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH A PUBLIC SCHOOL
13 DISTRICT SHALL BE RETURNED TO LOCAL CONTROL; TO
14 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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18 TO ESTABLISH THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH A
19 PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL BE RETURNED
20 TO LOCAL CONTROL; AND TO DECLARE AN
21 EMERGENCY.
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-2917, concerning public school districts
27 under the authority of the State Board of Education, is amended to add an
28 additional subsection to read as follows:

29 (d)(1) A public school district shall be returned to full local
30 control if the public school district has:

31 (A) Been under the authority of the state board under this
32 section for five (5) years; and

33 (B) Democratically elected a public school district board
34 of directors during a special school election or an annual school election.

35 (2) However, nothing in this section precludes the state board
36 from returning a public school district to full local control in fewer than



1 five (5) years.

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3 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
4 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that there may be confusion over
5 which entity controls a public school district; and that this act is
6 necessary in order to clarify the conditions under which a public school
7 district may reassume autonomy after being under the authority of the State
8 Board of Education. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this
9 act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and
10 safety shall become effective within sixty (60) days of the passage of this
11 act and not later than June 30, 2023.