

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

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State of Arkansas As Engrossed: H3/18/13 H3/26/13 H4/4/13 1

89th General Assembly **A Bill** 2

Regular Session, 2013 HOUSE BILL 1785 3

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By: Representative D. Douglas 5

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For An Act To Be Entitled 7

AN ACT TO PROVIDE DIGITAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN 8 PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES. 9

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Subtitle 12

TO PROVIDE DIGITAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES 13 IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS. 14

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS: 17

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SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, is amended to add an 19 additional subchapter to read
as follows: 20

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Subchapter 14 - Digital Learning 22

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6-16-1401. Title. 24

This subchapter may be cited as The Digital Learning Act of 2013. 25

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6-16-1402. Legislative intent. 27

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly to: 28

(1) Provide for the expansion of digital learning opportunities 29 to all Arkansas public school students;
and 30

(2) Remove any impediments to the expansion of digital learning 31 opportunities. 32

(b) This act does not authorize a government entity to provide 33 directly or indirectly basic local
exchange, voice, data, broadband, video, 34 or wireless telecommunication service except as authorized
under § 23-17-35 409(b). 36 As Engrossed: H3/18/13 H3/26/13 H4/4/13 HB1785 2 03-07-2013 10:41:19
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6-16-1403. Digital learning -- Approved provider list. 2

(a)(1) As used in this subchapter, digital learning means a digital 3 technology or internet-based educational delivery model that does not rely 4 exclusively on compressed interactive video. 5

(2) Digital learning services may be procured from both in-state 6 and out-of-state digital learning providers. 7

(b) The Department of Education shall annually: 8

(1) Publish a list of approved digital learning providers that 9 offer digital learning services; and 10

(2) Provide a copy of the list of approved digital learning 11 providers to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on 12 Education no later than June 1 each year. 13

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6-16-1404. Digital learning environment. 15

A digital learning environment shall be composed of: 16

(1) Access to quality digital learning content and online 17 blended learning courses; 18

(2) Tailored digital content designed to meet the needs of each 19 student; 20

(3) Digital learning content that meets or exceeds the 21 curriculum standards and requirements adopted by the State Board of Education 22 that is capable of being assessed and measured through standardized tests or 23 local assessments; and 24

(4) Infrastructure that is sufficient to handle and facilitate a 25 quality digital learning environment. 26

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6-16-1405. Digital learning providers. 28

(a) To become an approved digital learning provider a digital learning 29 provider shall submit proof that the provider: 30

(1) Is nonsectarian and nondiscriminatory in its programs, 31 employment practices, and operations; 32

(2) Demonstrates or partners with an organization that 33 demonstrates successful experience in furnishing digital learning courses to 34 public school students as demonstrated by student growth in each subject area 35 and grade level for which it proposes to provide digital learning courses; 36 As

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(3) Meets or exceeds the minimum curriculum standards and 1 requirements established by the State Board of Education and ensures 2 instructional and curricular quality through a curriculum and accountability 3 plan that addresses every subject area and grade level for which it agrees to 4 provide digital learning courses; and 5

(4)(A) Utilizes highly qualified teachers to deliver digital 6 learning courses to public school students. 7

(B) A highly qualified teacher that delivers digital 8 learning courses under this subchapter is not required to be licensed as a 9 teacher or administrator by the state board. 10

(b) The Department of Education or state board shall not require as a 11 condition of approval of a digital learning provider that the digital 12 learning provider limit the delivery of digital learning courses to public 13 schools that require physical attendance at the public school to successfully 14 complete the credit for which the digital learning course is provided. 15

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6-16-1406. Pilot program — Digital learning courses. 17

(a)(1)(A) Beginning in the 2013-2014 school year, all public school 18 districts and public charter schools participating in a pilot program shall 19 provide at least one (1) digital learning course to their students as either 20 a primary or supplementary method of instruction. 21

(B) The Department of Education shall adopt rules to 22 implement the pilot program, the purpose of which shall be to more smoothly 23 implement the requirements under subdivision (a)(2) of this section.

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(2) Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, all public school 25 districts and public charter schools shall provide at least one (1) digital 26 learning course to their students as either a primary or supplementary method 27 of instruction. 28

(b) All digital learning courses provided by public school districts 29 or public charter schools shall: 30

(1) Be of high quality; 31

(2) Meet or exceed the curriculum standards and requirements 32 established by the State Board of Education; and 33

(3) Be made available in a blended learning, online-based, or 34 other technology-based format tailored to meet the needs of each 35 participating student. 36

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(c) Digital learning courses shall be capable of being assessed and 1 measured through standardized tests or local assessments. 2

(d) Beginning with the entering ninth grade class of the 2014-2015 3 school year, each high school student shall be required to take at least one 4 (1) digital learning course for credit to graduate. 5

(e) The State Board of Education shall not limit the number of digital 6 learning courses for which a student may receive credit through a public 7 school or a public charter school and shall ensure that digital learning 8 courses may be used as both primary and secondary methods of instruction. 9

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SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. 11

(a) Before the Ninetieth General Assembly convenes in 2015, the House 12 Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education shall implement 13 a comprehensive study in collaboration with the Department of Education, the 14 Department of Information Systems, and Arkansas service providers on methods 15 to establish and maintain the necessary infrastructure and bandwidth to 16 sufficiently facilitate and deliver a quality digital learning environment in 17 each school district and public charter school. 18

(b) The final report shall be delivered to the Speaker of the House of 19 Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate no later than 20 December 1, 2014. 21

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/s/D. Douglas 24