A Bill  

Act 1297 of 1999  

SENATE BILL   780

For An Act To Be Entitled  

"AN ACT TO REQUIRE COORDINATION OF ALL TECHNOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF DISTANCE LEARNING ACTIVITIES IN ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle  

"AN ACT TO REQUIRE COORDINATION OF ALL TECHNOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF DISTANCE LEARNING ACTIVITIES IN ARKANSAS."

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

SECTION 1. Intent.  

It is the intent of the General Assembly that expenditures of state funds for distance learning technology promote statewide access to a shared-use network infrastructure, foster open standards for applications, optimize benefits, create opportunities for innovation in state government, and transform institutional and budgeting behavior.

SECTION 2. For the purposes of this act, “distance learning” means education and training that takes place when the student and the teacher are separated by space or time and the gap between them is bridged through the help of technology, including connecting students and teachers by way of the World Wide Web and interactive videoconferencing.

SECTION 3. Coordination required.  

No funds appropriated for any state agency, board, office, commission or institution shall be used for the technological implementation of distance learning as it existed prior to the 82nd General Assembly.
learning until the plan for the spending of such funds for distance learning technology has been prepared by the state agency, board, office, commission or institution and submitted to the Department of Information Systems' Office of Information Technology. The Office of Information Technology shall develop model criteria for the users of distance learning technology to insure compatibility and maintain the integrity of the statewide network infrastructure. The model distance learning criteria shall include accepted technological standards for voice, video, and data communications so that the quality of service can be optimized throughout the statewide network infrastructure. The Office of Information Technology shall report monthly to the Governor and the Joint Committee on Advanced Telecommunications and Information Technology on its activities regarding distance learning.

SECTION 4. All provisions of this section shall expire on July 1, 2001.

SECTION 5. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 6. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 7. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.