Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to law as it existed prior to the 82nd General Assembly.

State of Arkansas
82nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 1999

By: Senator Gordon

For An Act To Be Entitled
"AN ACT TO PROVIDE DISTANCE LEARNING IN THE STATE; TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS INTERAGENCY DISTANCE LEARNING REVIEW COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle
"AN ACT TO PROVIDE DISTANCE LEARNING IN THE STATE."

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

SECTION 1. Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the planning and implementation of distance learning should create opportunities for innovation in education, transform institutional behavior, and prepare students for participation in the information age economy.

SECTION 2. (a) The Department of Education shall plan for the statewide implementation of distance learning in elementary and secondary public schools in the state.

(b) The elementary or secondary school may utilize courses from outside the state; however, the course curriculum shall be reviewed by the Department of Education or the Department of Workforce Education prior to offering the courses through distance learning.

(c) The courses offered through distance learning may include college preparatory courses, advanced mathematics and science courses, and technological courses.

(d) The Department of Education shall work with the Arkansas School for Mathematics and Sciences, the Arkansas Educational Television Commission, the
Education Service Cooperatives, the State Library, and other state agencies involved in distance learning.

SECTION 3. The Department of Higher Education shall coordinate the implementation of distance learning at the state’s public institutions of higher education.

SECTION 4. The Department of Workforce Education shall cooperate with the Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education to implement distance learning throughout the state.

SECTION 5. (a) There is established the Arkansas Interagency Distance Learning Review Commission. The purpose of the commission is to review the state’s comprehensive distance learning program in order to compile a complete catalogue of available distance learning opportunities, address statewide policy issues regarding the coordination of services and foster coordination and cooperation in the delivery of services.

(b) The membership of the Arkansas Interagency Distance Learning Review Committee shall include:

(1) The director of the Arkansas Department of Education;

(2) The director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education;

(3) The director of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education;

(4) The director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission;

(5) The director of the Arkansas Department of Information Systems; and

(6) The co-chair of the Executive Council of Presidents and Chancellors.

(c) The commission shall meet on a regular basis and shall make recommendations to the House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate Interim Committee on Education by August 1 of the year preceding the year in which the regular session of the General Assembly is held regarding the performance and coordination of the state’s program of distance learning.

(d) Staff support shall be provided by the appropriate personnel from the Department of Education, the state’s public institutions of higher education, the Department of Higher Education, and the Department of Workforce Education.
Education, with the assistance of any appropriate staff of the other agencies whose directors serve on the commission.

SECTION 6. 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 7. 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 8. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

/s/ Gordon

APPROVED: 4/9/1999