

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF PROPOSED RULES
GOVERNING THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER ACT

Purpose:

These rules require school district boards of directors to adopt a policy requiring each school in the district to broadcast “The Star-Spangled Banner” at the beginning of each school-sanctioned sporting event and at least one time each week during school hours.

Background:

Act 958 of 2021 creates a new code section, Ark. Code Ann. 6-10-136, requiring school district boards of directors to adopt a policy requiring each school in the district to broadcast “The Star-Spangled Banner” at the beginning of each school-sanctioned sporting event and at least one time each week during school hours. Act 958 further specifies that the district broadcast a recording that adheres to rules promulgated by the Division. These proposed rules identify as approved recordings, the standard arrangement or standard instrumental version used by U.S. military bands or similar arrangement or version, or a recording that includes the lyrics from the first verse written by Francis Scott Key. There is no official version of The Star-Spangled Banner, however, these are the recordings most commonly used and referred to.

Key Points:

- Districts are required to adopt a policy requiring schools to broadcast The Star-Spangled Banner at the beginning of each school-sanctioned sporting event and at least one time each week during school hours.
- The recording selected must meet the specifications set forth in Division rules.
- Approved recordings are those most commonly used and easily obtainable by schools.

Discussion:

Act 958 of 2021 creates a new code section, Ark. Code Ann. 6-10-136, requiring school district boards of directors to adopt a policy requiring each school in the district to broadcast “The Star-Spangled Banner” at the beginning of each school-sanctioned sporting event and at least one time each week during school hours. Act 958 further specifies that the district broadcast a recording that adheres to rules promulgated by the Division. These proposed rules identify as approved recordings, the standard arrangement or standard instrumental version used by U.S. military bands or similar arrangement or version, or a recording that includes the lyrics from the first verse written by Francis Scott Key. There is no official version of The Star-Spangled Banner, however, these are the recordings most commonly used and referred to.

Recommendation:

We recommend that the proposed new rules be approved.