

Quarantines Bill AK

RCM/MEH

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An Arkansas legislative committee has failed to advance a bill that would have allowed school districts to decide whether to follow state directives on COVID-19 quarantines. In the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee, Republican Senator Trent Garner of El Dorado, spoke for the bill. He argued current quarantine guidelines leave too many healthy children missing in-class instructions.

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“...local school board.”

The debate included questions about whether districts that fail to enforce Health Department quarantines could lose school funding. It was one of 11 COVID-related bills considered by the committee, even though the governor has said any matters beyond redistricting would be a violation of the state constitution. The committee advanced bills allowing employees to withhold their COVID-19 vaccination status, get unemployment benefits if terminated for refusing to be vaccinated, and to be able to be considered exempt from needing a vaccine if they undergo constant coronavirus testing.