

1 State of Arkansas  
2 88th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2011  
4

As Engrossed: H3/24/11

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2219

5 By: Representatives Collins, *Lindsey*  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO PROVIDE STATE SUPPORT FOR THE ELECTRICAL  
9 ENERGY ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER  
10 EDUCATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

### Subtitle

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13  
14 TO PROVIDE STATE SUPPORT FOR THE  
15 ELECTRICAL ENERGY ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM FOR  
16 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.  
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18  
19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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#### 21 *SECTION 1. Legislative intent.*

22 *(a) The purpose of this subchapter is to provide state support for the*  
23 *Electrical Energy Advancement Program for institutions of higher education.*

24 *(b) The General Assembly finds that the Electrical Energy Advancement*  
25 *Program:*

26 *(1) Is identified as a key competency for Arkansas in the*  
27 *Battelle study commissioned by the Arkansas Research Alliance;*

28 *(2) Will focus on education, research, and economic development*  
29 *in the electrical energy sector to capitalize on one (1) of Arkansas's core*  
30 *technology competencies;*

31 *(3) Is vital to the economic development of Arkansas; and*

32 *(4) Is expected to be a source of tremendous job growth within*  
33 *Arkansas over the next decade.*  
34

35 *SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 61, is amended to add an*  
36 *additional subchapter to read as follows:*



1  
2 Subchapter 14 - Electrical Energy Advancement Program

3  
4 6-61-1401. Arkansas Statewide Energy Consortium.

5 (a) There is created the Arkansas Statewide Energy Consortium  
6 consisting of the:

7 (1) University of Arkansas, Fayetteville;

8 (2) University of Arkansas, Little Rock; and

9 (3) Arkansas State University, Jonesboro.

10 (b)(1) The consortium shall be headquartered at the University of  
11 Arkansas, Fayetteville, National Center for Reliable Electric Power  
12 Transmission.

13 (2) The University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, shall administer  
14 the Electrical Energy Advancement Program Fund.

15  
16 6-61-1402. Electrical Energy Advancement Program Fund Board.

17 (a) The Electrical Energy Advancement Program Fund Board is created to  
18 make recommendations to the Arkansas Statewide Energy Consortium regarding  
19 the allocation of funds for the programs approved under this subchapter.

20 (b) The board is composed of sixteen (16) members as follows:

21 (1)(A) The executive director of the University of Arkansas,  
22 Fayetteville, National Center for Reliable Electric Power Transmission or the  
23 director's designee, who shall serve as chair of the board and represent the  
24 University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

25 (B) The chair shall be a regular voting member with one  
26 (1) vote;

27 (2) Seven (7) of the members from the private electrical energy  
28 sector;

29 (3) Three (3) of the members from the United States Department  
30 of Energy national laboratories;

31 (4) The president of the Arkansas Science and Technology  
32 Authority or the president's designee;

33 (5) One (1) member who is designated by Arkansas State  
34 University;

35 (6) One (1) member who is designated by the University of  
36 Arkansas, Little Rock;

1 (7) The executive director of the Arkansas Economic Development  
2 Commission or the executive director's designee; and

3 (8) One (1) member who is designated by the Arkansas Public  
4 Service Commission.

5 (c)(1) Each private electrical energy sector member of the committee  
6 shall:

7 (A)(i) Be from an organization that is:

8 (a) Involved in the generation, transmission,  
9 or distribution of electricity; or

10 (b) Engaged in the design or manufacturing of  
11 electrical equipment for the generation, transmission, distribution or power  
12 conversion of electricity including electrified transportation.

13 (ii) An individual under this subdivision (c)(1)(A)  
14 shall have experience managing an organization that meets the description of  
15 this subdivision (c)(1)(A); and

16 (B) Have obtained at least an undergraduate degree from a  
17 four-year institution of higher learning in science or engineering.

18 (2) Each national laboratory member of the board shall:

19 (A) Be from a national laboratory group directly involved  
20 in the research and development of advanced technologies for the electric  
21 power grid; and

22 (B) Have obtained at least an undergraduate degree from a  
23 four-year institution of higher learning in science or engineering.

24 (d)(1) The chair shall seek nominations for the initial list of  
25 private electrical energy sector and national laboratory board members from:

26 (A) Each member of the board who is not from the private  
27 electrical energy sector or a national laboratory; and

28 (B) The Governor.

29 (2) From the recommendations, the chair will nominate the  
30 initial private electrical energy sector and national laboratory board  
31 members to the balance of the board for consideration and appointment to the  
32 board.

33 (e)(1) Except for the initial terms identified under this subsection,  
34 each private electrical energy sector and national laboratory board member  
35 shall serve a four-year term, with a maximum of two (2) consecutive four-year  
36 terms.

1           (2) The initial terms of the private electrical energy sector  
2 board members shall be as follows:

3                   (A) One (1) member shall serve a one-year term;

4                   (B) Two (2) members shall serve a two-year term;

5                   (C) Two (2) members shall serve a three-year term; and

6                   (D) Two (2) members shall serve a four-year term.

7           (3) The initial terms of the national laboratory board members  
8 shall be as follows:

9                   (A) One (1) member shall serve a two-year term;

10                   (B) One (1) member shall serve a three-year term; and

11                   (C) One (1) member shall serve a four-year term.

12           (4) The chair shall determine the terms of the initial private  
13 and national laboratory members of the board.

14           (5) Each member may be reappointed from time to time thereafter  
15 to serve no more than a maximum of (8) consecutive years including his or her  
16 initial term.

17           (f) Successors to the initial private electrical energy sector and  
18 national laboratory board members shall be nominated by the chair upon  
19 recommendation by the board.

20           (g) Members of the board who are not private electrical energy sector  
21 or national laboratory board members shall serve at the pleasure of the  
22 entity where they are employed.

23           (h)(1) The chair shall call the first meeting of the board not less  
24 than three (3) months after funding is received in the Electrical Energy  
25 Advancement Program Fund.

26           (2) Subsequent meetings shall be held on the call of the chair  
27 and shall convene at the National Center for Reliable Electric Power  
28 Transmission.

29           (i) A quorum shall consist of not less than a majority of the voting  
30 membership of the board, and the affirmative vote of that number is necessary  
31 for the disposition of the board's business.

32           (j)(1) Members of the board shall receive no pay for services with  
33 respect to attendance at each regular or special meeting of the board.

34           (2)(A) However, if funds are appropriated for the purpose and  
35 subject to board approval, members are entitled to reimbursement under § 25-  
36 16-902 for each day the board is in session.

1                   (B) Reimbursement is in an amount equal to the maximum  
2 daily allowance for meals and lodging paid as provided by law to a state  
3 employee for in-state travel plus mileage at the rate per mile provided by  
4 law for the reimbursement of mileage expense for state employees for travel  
5 from their homes to the place of the meeting and their return.

6                   (k) The National Center for Reliable Electric Power Transmission shall  
7 provide staff for the board.

8  
9                   6-61-1403. Duties.

10                   (a)(1) The Electrical Energy Advancement Program Fund Board shall make  
11 recommendations to the Arkansas Statewide Energy Consortium concerning the  
12 funding, funding ratios, and maximum amounts to be made available among the  
13 proposals and programs for:

14                   (A) Competitive undergraduate scholarships for Arkansas  
15 residents in the field of electrical and electronic engineering at the member  
16 universities of the consortium to be given in accordance with institutional  
17 guidelines; and

18                   (B) Competitive graduate fellowships for master's and  
19 doctoral students in electrical and electronic engineering at member  
20 universities of the consortium to be given in accordance with institutional  
21 guidelines with preference given to Arkansas residents.

22                   (2) One-time project costs may include without limitation the  
23 cost of:

24                   (A) Facilitating the hiring of new tenure-track faculty at  
25 each of the consortium member institutions to increase the capacity and  
26 expertise of each university to:

27                   (i) Perform research; and

28                   (ii) Successfully return that research to the  
29 classroom for the benefit of the entire consortium;

30                   (B) Expediting economic development through research by  
31 providing startup funds for successful applicants;

32                   (C) Continuing education programs to serve practicing  
33 engineers in the energy sector whose professional licensure or registration  
34 requires at least fifteen (15) hours of continuing education annually; and

35                   (D) Collaborative research projects between and among the  
36 consortium member institutions.

1 (b) The board may base its recommendations for use of the funds on a  
2 proposal's:

3 (1) Technical merit;

4 (2) Potential impact on the state's economic growth; and

5 (3) Potential for strengthening the state's electrical energy  
6 education programs.

7 (c)(1) Annually by June 30, the board shall:

8 (A) Report its actions to the Governor; and

9 (B) Provide a copy of the report to the agencies included  
10 in the report's recommendations.

11 (2) The board may provide the report required under this  
12 subsection by electronic means or by a printed copy.

13 (d) The board shall promulgate rules to implement this section.

14  
15 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 19, Chapter 5, Subchapter 12 is amended  
16 to add an additional section to read as follows:

17 19-5-1243. Electrical Energy Advancement Program Fund.

18 (a) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, the  
19 Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a miscellaneous  
20 fund to be known as the "Electrical Energy Advancement Program Fund".

21 (b) The fund shall consist of:

22 (1) Funds provided by law;

23 (2) Grants made by any person or federal government agency; and

24 (3) Other funds that become available through energy programs.

25 (c) The fund shall be used by the Arkansas Statewide Energy Consortium  
26 under the Electrical Energy Advancement Program, § 6-61-1401 et seq., to  
27 provide opportunities for Arkansas citizens to legitimately pursue high-  
28 technology and knowledge-based jobs in the electrical energy sector of  
29 Arkansas by providing a statewide, collaborative educational system focused  
30 on this sector.

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32 SECTION 4. DO NOT CODIFY. The provisions of this act shall expire six  
33 (6) years from the effective date of the act unless extended by the General  
34 Assembly.

35  
36 /s/Collins

APPROVED: 04/06/2011