

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **78th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1991**
4 **By: Representative Mahony**

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1029

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY WITHIN
9 THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND FOR OTHER
10 PURPOSES."

11

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

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14 SECTION 1. In order to enhance the public's access to performance
15 indicators and to better measure the dividends paid on the increasing public
16 investment in Arkansas' institutions of higher education, the General Assembly
17 finds that a separate office of accountability should be established within
18 the State Department of Higher Education. The foremost obligation of this
19 office shall be to publish annual campus-by-campus assessments, noting student
20 achievement and research accomplishments and providing information to set
21 future performance goals for each campus. A coequal obligation of this office
22 is to be accurate and open with the Department, the Joint Interim Committee on
23 Education of the General Assembly, the Joint Interim Oversight Subcommittee on
24 Education Reform of the Joint Interim Committee on Education and the public.

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26 SECTION 2. (a) There is created the Office of Accountability within
27 the Department of Higher Education.

28 (b) The Director of Higher Education shall establish a coordinator and
29 staff for the Office of Accountability.

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31 SECTION 3. The Office of Accountability shall have the following
32 duties:

33 (1) Beginning in 1992, to issue an annual report on the results of an
34 overall study of accountability measures in higher education;

35 (2) To develop and publish results of a campus-by-campus assessment

1 program of student achievement and research accomplishments; and using funds
2 authorized by this act and appropriated for this purpose, to make
3 demonstration project grants to at least one public four-year and one public
4 two-year institution in order to develop model institutional assessment
5 programs which will serve as pilots for other colleges and universities in the
6 state; the Department of Higher Education is authorized to develop rules and
7 procedures for selecting demonstration projects and awarding grants for this
8 purpose;

9 (3) To administer a "rising junior" test designed to test students'
10 abilities to satisfactorily perform upper level course requirements and
11 publish results of the test;

12 (4) To work with institutions of higher education to develop common
13 instruments used by the institutions to measure job placement, job retention
14 and wage rates for recent graduates and nongraduating students, and to measure
15 student satisfaction by graduates and nongraduating students with their
16 education experience, and to report results to the Department of Higher
17 Education for publication;

18 (5) To compare the performance of Arkansas college graduates with
19 graduates from other states, based on measures such as scores on Graduate
20 Record Exams, the Law School Admissions Test, Graduate Management Admissions
21 Test, National Teachers Exam and Medical College Admissions Test and publish
22 these results;

23 (6) To identify those programs which could be internationally
24 competitive by the year 2001;

25 (7) *To offer similar assistance to private institutions of higher*
26 *education willing to participate in programs of the office;*

27 (8) To report annually to the Governor and General Assembly on
28 provisions authorized in this act.

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30 SECTION 4. (a) The Office of Accountability shall make available to
31 the Joint Interim Oversight Subcommittee on Educational Reform and the Joint
32 Interim Committee on Education the reports the office submits to the Director
33 of the State Department of Higher Education.

34 (b) Under the direction of the Director of the State Department of
35 Higher Education, the staff of the Office of Accountability shall work
36 cooperatively with and provide any necessary assistance to the Joint Interim

1 Oversight Subcommittee on Educational Reform and the Joint Interim Committee
2 on Education.

3 (c) The Office of Accountability shall furnish information to
4 appropriate legislative committees upon request.

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6 SECTION 5. (a) The Advisory Committee on Accountability established in
7 Ark. Code Ann. §6-15-804, shall serve as a citizens' advisory committee on
8 accountability for the Office of Accountability established herein.

9 (b) Any biennial reports required under Ark. Code Ann. §6-15-809 shall
10 include findings and recommendations in regard to areas of concern for higher
11 education in addition to those required by law.

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13 SECTION 6. Establishment of the Office of Accountability and
14 implementation of the provisions of this legislation which directly affect the
15 operation of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education shall be contingent
16 on the appropriation and funding of the staff and operating budget necessary
17 to allow the Department of Higher Education to carry out the duties assigned
18 to the Department in this act. If no specific appropriation and funding to
19 establish the Office of Accountability is enacted during the 78th Regular
20 Session of the General Assembly, it shall be inoperative until such specific
21 appropriation and funding is enacted.

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23 SECTION 7. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
24 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
25 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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27 SECTION 8. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
28 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
29 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
30 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
31 act are declared to be severable.

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33 SECTION 9. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
34 hereby repealed.

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/s/J. Mahony