

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **78th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1991**

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1428

4 **By: Representatives Pollan, McGinnis and McKissick**

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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE ANN. TITLE 6, CHAPTER 50,
9 TO ADD A NEW SUBCHAPTER 5, TO DIRECT THE VOCATIONAL AND
10 TECHNICAL EDUCATIONAL DIVISION OF THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT
11 OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH THE YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP/WORK-
12 BASED LEARNING PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

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16 SECTION 1. The Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated is hereby amended to add
17 the following:

18 "6-50-501. This subchapter may be cited as the Arkansas Youth
19 Apprenticeship/Work-Based Learning Act of 1991.

20 6-50-502. Whereas workplace changes have profoundly altered and
21 increased the skills required of workers and managers; and

22 Whereas schools are struggling to improve the basic skills of the school
23 age population drawn increasingly from 'at risk' households where children
24 tend to leave school early; and

25 Whereas many non-college bound youth, especially women and minorities,
26 spend their first years after high school unemployed or job hopping from one
27 low skills job to another, with a consequent loss in productivity and access
28 to career-oriented learning; and

29 Whereas most new jobs that will be created in the 1990's will require
30 some post-secondary education; and

31 Whereas the economic position of 'The Forgotten Half' -- non-college
32 bound high school graduates -- is deteriorating with real earnings declining
33 by 28% from 1973 to 1986, while the earnings of college graduates have risen;
34 and

35 Whereas most employers in the U.S. lack a tradition of strong employee

1 training;

2 Now, therefore, the State of Arkansas has determined that the
3 establishment of a Youth Apprenticeship Program can contribute significantly
4 to addressing these problems by providing Arkansas' non-college bound young
5 people with additional opportunities to develop meaningful job skills.

6 6-50-503 (a). The Vocational and Technical Education Division of the
7 Arkansas Department of Education is hereby authorized and directed to develop
8 and implement a Youth Apprenticeship/Work-Based Learning program to provide
9 additional educational and training opportunities for non-college bound
10 Arkansas high school students. The program should be based on the following
11 fundamental principles:

12 (1) Strong employer commitment and involvement;

13 (2) Take young people at the end of the 10th grade through a
14 three to four (3-4) year process connecting high school and the first year or
15 two of postsecondary learning;

16 (3) Provide high-quality supervised learning opportunities for
17 students at the worksite;

18 (4) Integrate academic and vocational teaching and learning in
19 the classroom and at work;

20 (5) Foster interactive, team based learning in the classroom;

21 (6) Include curriculum on all aspects of the industry;

22 (7) Use competency-based measures for evaluating student
23 progress;

24 (8) Provide both academic and occupational credentials;

25 (9) Provide access and supports to non-traditional groups and
26 explicitly address issues presented by diversity in society and the workplace.

27 (b) The industries and occupations selected for this program must offer
28 entry-level jobs with good opportunities for career advancement into high
29 skill, high wage jobs. The Division of Vocational and Technical Education,
30 the Arkansas Apprenticeship Coordinating Steering Committee (AACSC) and local
31 sites will take *joint responsibility for identifying these industries and*
32 *occupations*. The AACSC will take responsibility for identifying
33 'traditional' apprenticeship programs that are currently in place.

34 6-50-504. The Vocational and Technical Education Division of the
35 Arkansas Department of Education shall implement during the 1991-93 biennium

1 at least five (5) demonstration youth apprenticeship programs. In designing
 2 and implementing such programs the Division shall require the selected
 3 demonstration projects to make a five (5) year commitment to the program's
 4 effective implementation and to match state funding with commitments from
 5 local participants including employers and unions, high schools, vocational
 6 and technical schools, community colleges, *technical colleges* and other
 7 appropriate entities. State funding for the demonstration projects shall be
 8 from funds appropriated by the General Assembly to the Vocational and
 9 Technical Education Division for such purpose. *The award of funding for the*
 10 *demonstration projects authorized by this subchapter shall be made jointly by*
 11 *the State Board for Vocational Education and the State Board of Higher*
 12 *Education.*

13 6-50-505 (a). The State Board of Education may provide waivers of
 14 regulations adopted by either the General Education Division or the Vocational
 15 and Technical Educational Division when such waivers are necessary to
 16 accomplish the purposes of this subchapter, so long as such waivers will not
 17 weaken the quality of the educational opportunities provided.

18 (b) The Vocational and Technical Education Division shall also take the
 19 lead role in seeking the establishment of articulation agreements between high
 20 schools, vocational and technical schools, and *institutions of higher*
 21 *education, with a goal of eliminating barriers to lifelong learning. The*
 22 *resulting articulation agreements will need to be approved by the appropriate*
 23 *local and state boards of the participating school district(s), post-secondary*
 24 *vocational and technical school(s), and institution(s) of higher education.*

25 (c) The State Board of Vocational and Technical Education is authorized
 26 to promulgate rules and regulations for the implementation of the program
 27 established by this subchapter."
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29 SECTION 2. All provisions of this Act of a general and permanent nature
 30 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
 31 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.
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33 SECTION 3. If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to
 34 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
 35 other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without

1 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
2 Act are declared to be severable.

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4 SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are
5 hereby repealed.

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/s/ Carolyn Pollan et al

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