

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

A Bill

SENATE BILL

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A TECHNICAL COLLEGE TO MORE
9 EFFECTIVELY MEET THE EDUCATION NEEDS OF THE CITIZENS OF
10 THIS STATE; TO PROVIDE FOR INTERIM GOVERNANCE AND
11 ACCREDITATION; TO PROVIDE A LOCAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES; AND
12 FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

13
14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

15
16 SECTION 1. (a) Effective July 1, 1991, the State Board of Higher
17 Education shall designate Ouachita Vocational-Technical School, Malvern, as a
18 technical college which shall become part of the Arkansas Technical and
19 Community College System under the coordination of the State Board of Higher
20 Education.

21 (b) This institution shall not have any authority to request the State
22 Board of Higher Education approval for associate degree programs before July
23 1, 1993.

24 (c) This institution may expend to offer courses of instruction in
25 technical, vocational and adult education programs and college transfer
26 programs and may, upon a vote of the electorate, create a community college
27 district and, if necessary, impose a millage to convert to a community
28 college.

29 (d) Until the institution elects to become a community college, the
30 institution shall be known as a technical college.

31 (e) The College Panel of the State Board of Higher Education shall be
32 responsible for the operation of the technical college until such time as a
33 local board is appointed.

34 (f) Upon the appointment of the local board, all records, personnel,
35 property, unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations or other funds of

1 the state-supported postsecondary vocational-technical institution shall be
2 transferred to the local board.

3 (g) The local board shall be responsible for the administration and
4 operation of the institution and shall be further responsible for the
5 provision of services to meet the two-year postsecondary educational needs of
6 those citizens located within the service area assigned the institution by the
7 State Board of Higher Education.

8 (h) The technical college shall work to achieve higher education
9 institutional accreditation from the North Central Association - Commission on
10 Institutions of Higher Education. If the technical colleges fails to achieve
11 such accreditation within six (6) years following the date of transfer under
12 (f) above, the technical college shall be abolished by the state board. All
13 records, personnel, property, unexpended balances of appropriations,
14 allocations or other funds of the technical college shall be transferred to
15 the State Department of Higher Education.

16

17 SECTION 2. (a) The technical college established herein shall be
18 subject to the same restrictions and enjoy the same privileges as any other
19 technical college created under the act establishing the Arkansas Technical
20 and Community College System.

21 (b) The director of Ouachita Vocational-Technical School and all other
22 personnel employed by the school shall enjoy the same rights and privileges as
23 personnel employed by state-supported postsecondary vocational-technical
24 schools transferred to the Arkansas Technical and Community College System
25 under the act establishing such system.

26

27 SECTION 3. The technical college provided for in this act shall not be
28 established until an additional source of funding is provided by the Seventy-
29 Eighth Session of the Arkansas General Assembly which is specifically
30 dedicated to financing the technical and community college system and
31 postsecondary vocational technical schools in the Division of Vocational
32 Technical Education of the Arkansas Department of Education.

33

34 SECTION 4. The procedures and deadlines established in this act shall,
35 for the purpose of this act, be in lieu of and supersede those set forth in

1 existing laws of this state with respect to the establishment, organization
2 and administration of this vocational-technical postsecondary institution.
3 Existing laws of this state shall for the purposes of this act apply only in
4 those situations which are not specifically provided for in this act and, when
5 applied, shall be consistent, insofar as possible, with the purpose,
6 procedures and deadlines contained in this act.

7

8 SECTION 5. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
9 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
10 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

11

12 SECTION 6. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
13 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
14 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
15 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
16 act are declared to be severable.

17

18 SECTION 7. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
19 hereby repealed.

20

21 SECTION 8. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the
22 Seventy-Eighth General Assembly that the restructuring of the delivery system
23 of adult education and vocational education in this state is necessary to
24 provide higher quality educational programs which are accessible by all
25 segments of the population in this state; that recent studies have shown that
26 in the year 2000, workers must have a minimum of fourteen (14) years education
27 to function in the work force; that the state is in desperate need of
28 training, retraining and upgrading the work force; that this act will provide
29 a means to establish more institutions working closely with business and
30 industry to provide every citizen with an opportunity to participate in
31 vocational-technical training or college transfer programs within a reasonable
32 driving distance of their homes; that it is necessary for this act to become
33 effective immediately so needed changes can be made prior to the date the
34 institutions contained herein are transferred to the new system. Therefore,
35 an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this act being necessary for the

- 1 immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full
- 2 force and effect from and after its passage and approval.