

1 **State of Arkansas**

2 **79th General Assembly**

3 **Regular Session, 1993**

4 **By: Representatives Mahony, McGinnis and Wagner**

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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ACADEMIC
9 PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AT ARKANSAS
10 PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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Subtitle

13 "TO ESTABLISH HIGHER EDUCATION ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE
14 STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA."

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

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18 SECTION 1. (a) The State Board of Higher Education is hereby directed
19 to work with the public *colleges and universities* to develop or adopt a single
20 standardized test to be taken by all Arkansas public *colleges and university*
21 students at the end of the sophomore year *to evaluate student learning in the*
22 *general education curriculum established under § 6-61-218, the results of*
23 *which shall be evaluated in light of the institution's mission and goals.*

24 (b) This "rising junior test" shall be given annually by all public
25 *colleges and universities* in Arkansas, with the first statewide administration
26 to take place by the end of the 1994-95 academic year.

27 (c) The State Board of Higher Education, after consultation with the
28 public *colleges and universities*, is hereby authorized to adopt policies and
29 procedures to implement this section.

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31 SECTION 2. (a) *By June 30, 1994, in consultation with the State Board*
32 *of Higher Education, the public colleges and universities shall develop*
33 *performance standards and related evaluation procedures for each diploma,*
34 *certificate, associate degree, and bachelor_s degree program offered by the*
35 *public colleges and universities.*

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2 (b) (1) In order to receive an associate or bachelor_s degree from a
3 public college or university, any first-time entering freshman enrolling after
4 August 1, 1995, shall complete a performance examination administered by the
5 public college or university and approved for this purpose by the State Board
6 of Higher Education.

7 (2) *In fields of study with nationally recognized tests or licensure*
8 *examinations, students shall complete such a test or examination. The test or*
9 *examination used for this purpose must be approved by the State Board of*
10 *Higher Education, in consultation with the public colleges and universities,*
11 *and must be administered to students in those fields of study at all public*
12 *institutions of higher education.*

13 (3) *Where the State Board of Higher Education, in consultation with the*
14 *public colleges and universities, determines that a discipline-specific test*
15 *or licensure examination does not exist or is not appropriate, students shall*
16 *complete a general performance examination of common collegiate outcomes*
17 *administered by the college or university and approved for this purpose by the*
18 *State Board of Higher Education.*

19 (4) *The colleges and universities, in consultation with the State Board*
20 *of Higher Education, may develop and/or adopt a comprehensive outcome*
21 *assessment program which may be substituted for the examinations referred to*
22 *in (b) (1), (b) (2), and (b) (3) and which shall include evidence of the*
23 *following: proficiency in skills and competencies essential for all college-*
24 *educated adults; completion of an identifiable and coherent undergraduate*
25 *level general education component; and mastery of the level of knowledge*
26 *appropriate to the degree granted. Recognizing that each public institution*
27 *is unique in the variety of types and level of programs offered and is*
28 *different in role, scope, and mission, each institution will develop a*
29 *comprehensive institutional effectiveness measurement system that covers every*
30 *degree or certificate program. The system shall involve multiple measures*
31 *including, but not limited to, entrance standards and exit competency*
32 *measures, using , where appropriate, a combination of nationally normed tests*
33 *for general education components, and for each degree or training program,*
34 *licensure exams and proficiency tests, where available, or locally developed*
35 *exams, employers and graduate surveys and evaluations, students' end-of-course*

1 critiques, advisory committee feedback, faculty reviews, internal and external
2 program reviews, and regional and specialized accreditation reports, where
3 applicable.

4 (c) After July 1, 1994, any new associate or bachelor_s degree program
5 that is submitted to the State Board of Higher Education for approval shall
6 include the performance standards that will be measured by the institution for
7 all graduates of the program.

8 (d) Policies and procedures for this system of performance and
9 evaluation standards shall be adopted by the State Board of Higher Education
10 and implemented by the public colleges and universities. *These policies and*
11 *procedures shall be implemented by the public colleges and universities as a*
12 *condition for receiving state funds.*

13 (e) Appropriate notice of these performance standards shall be provided
14 to all freshmen entering the public colleges and universities after August 1,
15 1995, by the institution enrolling the student.

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17 SECTION 3. (a) *The State Board of Higher Education shall report on a*
18 *quarterly basis to the Joint Interim Committee on Higher Education Reform and*
19 *the Joint Interim Oversight Subcommittee on Education Reform the progress*
20 *being made toward meeting the provisions of this Act.*

21 (b) *The State Board of Higher Education is hereby authorized to adopt*
22 *policies and procedures for the implementation of this section.*

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24 SECTION 4. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
25 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
26 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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28 SECTION 5. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
29 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
30 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
31 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
32 act are declared to be severable.

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34 SECTION 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
35 hereby repealed.

As Engrossed: 2/4/93 2/10/93 2/25/93 3/3/93 3/8/93

HB 1272

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/s/J. Mahony, et al

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