

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **79th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1993**
4 **By: Representative Baker**

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1345

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE TITLE 6, CHAPTER 51 TO ADD
9 A NEW SUBCHAPTER TO BE KNOWN AS THE _MODEL VOCATIONAL-
10 TECHNICAL EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER ACT OF 1993_; AND FOR
11 OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

14 "THE MODEL VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER
15 ACT OF 1993."

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

20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 51 is amended to add a new
21 subchapter to read as follows:

23 "SUBCHAPTER 7.

25 6-51-701. Title.

26 The title of this subchapter shall be the _Model Vocational-Technical
27 Education Resource Center Act of 1993_.

29 6-51-702. Definitions.

30 For the purpose of this subchapter _resource center_ means the
31 Vocational-Technical Education Resource Center created by this subchapter.

33 6-51-703. Model Vocational-Technical Education Resource Center
34 established - Functions.

35 (a) There is established a model resource center for a system of multi-

1 county vocational and technical education services. The model resource center
2 shall be located within the North East Arkansas Education Services Cooperative
3 service area, established pursuant to Arkansas Code 6-13-1002 et seq. The
4 resource center shall be an intermediate service unit in the state's
5 vocational and technical education system for public schools and other
6 vocational, *technical, or adult* programs in the state and as such shall be
7 eligible to receive and expend funds from state and federal governments,
8 school districts, and other public or private sources.

9 (b) The resource center established by this subchapter will provide to
10 school districts and *other vocational, technical, or adult programs* which
11 choose to use them assistance in:

12 (1) Meeting or exceeding accreditation standards and equalizing
13 vocational and technical educational opportunities;

14 (2) Using vocational and technical educational resources more
15 effectively through cooperation; and

16 (3) Promoting coordination vocational and technical programs and
17 services.

18

19 6-51-704. Board of directors.

20 (a) The resource center shall be governed by a board of directors
21 consisting of nine (9) members to be composed as follows:

22 (1) Five (5) members shall be representative of school districts
23 in the service area;

24 (2) Two (2) members shall be representative of business or
25 industry in the service area; and

26 (3) Two (2) members shall be representative of *other vocational,*
27 *technical, or adult programs* serving the area.

28 (b) The selection of board members shall be made in such a manner so
29 that as near as possible each county in the area has equal representation.

30 (c) The initial board shall be selected by a majority vote of the
31 superintendents of the school districts in the area from a list of nominees
32 submitted by the North East Arkansas Vocational-Technical Education Advisory
33 Council. Thereafter, vacancies shall be filled by a majority vote of the
34 remaining board members of the resource center.

35 (d) The board of directors of the resource center shall function as a

1 public corporate body, shall meet at least four (4) times each year, and shall
2 exercise general fiduciary responsibilities for the resource center with
3 regard to policies and practices which guard the integrity of the center and
4 maintain public trust in its operation.

5 (e) The responsibilities of the board, consistent with funds available,
6 shall include, but not be limited to:

7 (1) Employment of a director of the resource center who shall
8 serve as the nonvoting executive officer of the board of directors;

9 (2) Establishment of policies and procedures for the operation
10 and management of the resource center which shall be in written form and shall
11 be filed with the State Board of Vocational Education;

12 (3) Preparation of an annual budget estimating income and
13 expenditures for programs and services in accordance with procedures *approved*
14 by the State Board of Vocational Education;

15 (4) Receipt and expenditure of funds needed to provide programs
16 and services in the area;

17 (5) Making such surveys or other inquiries which may be required
18 to determine the service needs of school districts, *other vocational,*
19 *technical, or adult programs,* and business and industry in the area served by
20 the resource center and developing plans to provide such needed services;

21 (6) Employment, upon the recommendations of the director of the
22 resource center, of such personnel as may be required to provide the services
23 requested in the area;

24 (7) Cooperation with school districts, *other vocational,*
25 *technical, or adult programs,* business and industry, and other agencies to
26 provide programs and services for children and adults residing within the
27 areas;

28 (8) Renting, leasing, or receiving by gift such facilities and
29 buildings as may be required to provide authorized programs and services; and

30 (9) Carrying out such other duties which may be required for the
31 efficient operation of the resource center for which the board is responsible.

32 (f) The board may *petition the State Board of Vocational Education to*
33 *establish a vocational center which will provide, consistent with funds*
34 *available, vocational education opportunities to students.*

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1 6-51-705. Personnel generally.

2 (a) Personnel of the resource center shall be employed in accordance
3 with laws, rules, regulations, and procedures applicable to the school
4 districts of this state.

5 (b) Certificate requirements shall be the same as those expected of
6 persons holding similar positions in local school districts. However, the
7 Director of Vocational and Technical Education may grant a waiver from this
8 subsection in exceptional circumstances.

9 (c) Termination or contract nonrenewal of resource center personnel
10 shall be as provided by law for the school district personnel.

11

12 6-51-706. Agency personnel.

13 With the approval of the board of directors of the resource center, the
14 Director of Vocational-Technical Education and the Director of General
15 Education may assign state educational agency personnel to the resource
16 center.

17

18 6-51-707. Programs and services.

19 (a) The programs and services of the resource center shall be based
20 upon the needs of the school districts and *other vocational, technical, or*
21 *adult programs* included in its service area and upon the educational
22 priorities of the state.

23 (b) The resource center may provide vocational and technical
24 educational programs and services which the State Board of Vocational
25 Education may approve or which school districts or *other vocational,*
26 *technical, or adult programs* may support with local funds.

27

28 6-51-708. Participation of local school districts - Contracts.

29 (a) No school district or *other vocational, technical, or adult program*
30 shall be required to participate in any service.

31 (b) School districts and *other vocational, technical, or adult programs*
32 may enter into contract with the resource center for services supported
33 partially or completely by funds of the school district or *other vocational,*
34 *technical, or adult program.*

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1 6-51-709. Funding of resource center.

2 (a) As a public agency, the resource center shall be eligible to
3 receive and expend public and private funds.

4 (b) School districts and *other vocational, technical, or adult programs*
5 may contract with the resource center for services and part-time personnel to
6 be supported in whole or in part by local funds, but no school district or
7 *other vocational, technical, or adult program* shall be assessed a membership
8 fee.

9 (c) Categorical state or federal funds may be assigned to the resource
10 center upon approval of its board of directors and under conditions set by the
11 State Board of Vocational Education or the State Board of Education.

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13 6-51-710. Policies and procedures - Expenditures, reports, and audits.

14 (a) *In consultation with the State Board of Vocational Education, the*
15 *policies, procedures, and a strategic plan for the operation of the resource*
16 *center shall be developed and filed with the State Board of Vocational*
17 *Education prior to the start up of the center. These documents shall be*
18 *updated annually and filed with the State Board of Vocational Education on or*
19 *before June 1 of each year.*

20 (b) Reports of receipts and expenditures shall also be filed with
21 the State Board of Vocational Education on forms provided and time schedules
22 set by the Director of *Vocational-Technical* Education. These reports shall
23 contain, but not be limited to, an itemization of administrative and
24 programmatic expenditures. Expenditures shall be reported in accordance with
25 uniform accounting procedures adopted by the *Vocational and Technical*
26 *Education Division.*

27 (c) The resource center shall be subject to annual audits by the
28 Legislative Joint Auditing Committee.

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30 SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
31 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
32 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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34 SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
35 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect

1 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
2 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
3 act are declared to be severable.

4

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

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8 SECTION 5. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is hereby found and determined by the
9 General Assembly that the establishment of a vocational-technical education
10 resource center, as provided for in this act, is essential if needed
11 improvements are to be made in vocational education programs in this state and
12 that immediate action is necessary if the Vocational-Technical Education
13 Resource Center is formed and ready for operation by the beginning of the
14 1993-94 school year. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and
15 this act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace,
16 health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage
17 and approval.

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/s/Thomas G. Baker

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As Engrossed: 2/3/93 2/10/93

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