

1 **State of Arkansas**

2 **79th General Assembly**

3 **Regular Session, 1993**

4 **By: Representatives Mahony, Smith, Wilkins and Roberts**

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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO
9 COOPERATE WITH INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN
10 DEVELOPING A HIGHER EDUCATION AWARENESS PROGRAM FOR EIGHTH
11 (8TH) GRADE STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS; AND
12 FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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Subtitle

15 "TO ESTABLISH A HIGHER EDUCATION AWARENESS PROGRAM FOR
16 EIGHTH (8TH) GRADE STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS OR
17 GUARDIANS."

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

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21 SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as and may be cited as the "Higher
22 Education Awareness Act of 1993".

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24 SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The General Assembly hereby finds and
25 determines the following:

26 (1) That the skills required for jobs and careers in the future demand
27 increasing knowledge and training and the continued development of the
28 Arkansas economy depends on more of our citizens obtaining post-secondary
29 education;

30 (2) That the course choices made as early as the ninth (9th) grade can
31 effect the education options available to a student after high school;

32 (3) That many eighth (8th) graders and their parents or guardians are
33 unfamiliar with the courses required to enter our state_s colleges and
34 universities or the options offered by our state_s technical colleges and are
35 unaware of the financial requirements or financial assistance available for

1 post-secondary opportunities; and

2 (4) That one of the education goals of Arkansas and the nation is to
3 increase the number of young people entering post-secondary education.

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5 SECTION 3. (a) The State Department of Higher Education is hereby
6 directed to work with Arkansas public institutions of higher education, and
7 those private institutions of higher education that wish to participate, to
8 develop information packages for eighth (8th) grade students and their parents
9 or guardians on the options of post-secondary education available in Arkansas,
10 the courses required to attend colleges and universities, and the financial
11 requirements and assistance available for students pursuing additional
12 education after high school.

13 (b) During 1993-94, the department shall develop the information
14 packages and distribute the packages, as a pilot program, in a limited number
15 of school districts. The department shall report to the Joint Interim
16 Committee on Education no later than August 31, 1994, on the information
17 packages and the pilot program.

18 (c) Beginning with the 1994-95 school year, the department shall work
19 with Arkansas public institutions of higher education, and those private
20 institutions of higher education that wish to participate, to provide annually
21 *additional information* for eighth (8th) grade students and their parents or
22 guardians on high school courses that are required for post-secondary
23 education and post-secondary options, and financial requirements and
24 assistance available for post-secondary education. *Sessions to discuss*
25 *postsecondary options* shall be held *during the spring semester at a reasonable*
26 *time* at each of the state_s public schools housing an eighth (8th) grade
27 class. *The sessions should be scheduled* at a time convenient to the school
28 and the cooperating *institution(s)* of higher education. *The students in the*
29 *eighth (8th) grade, the school counselor(s), and the students' parents,*
30 *guardians, or persons in loco parentis shall meet together in conference for*
31 *the purpose of defining the students' educational objectives for the future*
32 *and developing a course of study for grades nine through twelve (9-12). At*
33 *the request of the parent(s), guardian(s), or person(s) in loco parentis, the*
34 *school will schedule an individual conference to evaluate the student's past*
35 *academic performance, to define the student's educational objectives for the*

1 future, and to develop a course of study for the student in grades nine
2 through twelve (9-12).

3 (d) The State Board of Education, the State Department of Education,
4 and the public schools of Arkansas shall cooperate with *the State Board of*
5 *Higher Education*, the State Department of Higher Education and the
6 institutions of higher education in providing the *information* and shall assist
7 *as requested by the State Department of Higher Education*. Individual schools
8 shall make special efforts to ensure that as many students and parents or
9 guardians as possible are made aware of the opportunity to receive
10 information, are urged to attend the counseling sessions, and receive the
11 information packages.

12 (e) Businesses and industries in Arkansas are hereby requested to
13 provide the opportunity to their employees with children in the eighth grade
14 in public schools in Arkansas to attend the counseling sessions and to
15 cooperate with institutions of higher education in presenting at the worksite
16 small group and one-on-one counseling on courses that are required for post-
17 secondary education and post-secondary options, and financial requirements and
18 assistance available for post-secondary education.

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

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

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

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/s/Jodie Mahony, et al

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

HB 1842

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