

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to law as it existed prior to the 82nd General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 82nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1999  
4

As Engrossed: 1/28/99  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1290

5 By: Representatives B. Johnson, Magnus, Madison, Kidd, Agee, Allison, Ammons, Angel, Bennett, Bevis,  
6 Biggs, Bond, Booker, Bookout, Broadway, Bush, Carson, Cleveland, Cook, Courtway, Creekmore, Davis,  
7 Dees, Eason, Elliott, Faris, Ferguson, Ferrell, Files, French, Gillespie, Gipson, Glover, Green, Gullett, Haak,  
8 Hale, Harris, Hathorn, Hausam, Hickinbotham, Horn, House, Hunt, Jacobs, G. Jeffress, J. Jeffress, C.  
9 Johnson, Jones, Judy, King, Lancaster, Laverty, Lendall, J. Lewellen, Luker, Lynn, P. Malone, Milligan,  
10 Milum, Minton, Napper, Oglesby, Pappas, Parks, Prater, Rackley, Rodgers, Salmon, Scrimshire, Seawel,  
11 Sheppard, Shoffner, Simmons, Simon, M. Smith, R. Smith, T. Smith, M. Steele, T. Steele, Taylor, Teague,  
12 L. Thomas, T. Thomas, Trammell, Vess, W. Walker, Weaver, White, Wilkins, Wilkinson, Willis, Womack,  
13 Wood  
14  
15

### For An Act To Be Entitled

16 "AN ACT TO CREATE A COLLEGE OF INFORMATION SCIENCE AND  
17 SYSTEMS ENGINEERING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT  
18 LITTLE ROCK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. "  
19  
20

### Subtitle

21 "TO CREATE A COLLEGE OF INFORMATION  
22 SCIENCE AND SYSTEMS ENGINEERING AT THE  
23 UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK. "  
24  
25  
26

27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
28

29 SECTION 1. Legislative Findings. It has been determined that there is  
30 a significant shortfall in postsecondary education for persons seeking to  
31 become highly skilled in the use of information technology, which affects our  
32 entire economy. In fact, American employment in these fields has tripled in  
33 the last decade. Without action to meet the broad-based demand for a skilled  
34 and highly educated workforce by industries involved in manufacturing,  
35 services, transportation, healthcare, education, government, and information  
36 systems, severe consequences could accrue to Arkansas' competitiveness and

1 economic growth. By providing our citizens with the opportunity to acquire a  
2 high level of education in this discipline, job creation will result as firms  
3 locate and expand in Arkansas. These industries will form an important  
4 component in Arkansas' economy in the next century. To accomplish this goal,  
5 we must establish a new college of information science and systems engineering  
6 and form a partnership between the university, public schools, and the private  
7 sector so that the public schools may be best prepared to give the training  
8 necessary to students prior to entering college, and that the colleges are  
9 prepared to build on that training to provide the potential employees for  
10 companies which are currently located in this state or which we are attempting  
11 to attract to this state.

12  
13 SECTION 2. (a) There is hereby created within the University of  
14 Arkansas at Little Rock a College of Information Science and Systems  
15 Engineering designed to accomplish the purposes set forth in Section 1 of this  
16 act.

17 (b) Cooperative efforts are anticipated with other two and four year  
18 post secondary state institutions. These efforts may include, but not be  
19 limited to, the creation of distance learning centers and semi-smart  
20 classrooms and the establishment of a formal bridge consisting of such  
21 elements as joint degree programs and jointly appointed faculties.

22 (c) In addition to funds appropriated by the General Assembly to  
23 fulfill the purposes of this act, UALR may also seek funding from the federal  
24 government and the private sector, both profit and nonprofit.

25 (d) The institutions shall enter into continued dialogue with the  
26 private sector to seek input as to the type of training that will be most  
27 beneficial to industry and, therefore, make the graduates most marketable.

28 (e) The enhancement of educational opportunities in Arkansas in the  
29 field of information technologies and the development of a public-private  
30 partnership between the universities and the knowledge-based businesses will  
31 help assure that our graduates and their families will have the best  
32 opportunity of remaining in this state in productive and rewarding careers.  
33 Furthermore, the program envisioned by this act will help both traditional  
34 students and nontraditional students. It will provide traditional students  
35 with liberal arts majors an avenue to enhance their value and their ability to  
36 grow into future jobs, and it will offer majors to those who wish to

1 specialize exclusively in the information technology fields. Nontraditional  
2 students will be given an option to continue their education in a field that  
3 will allow them more flexibility in today's job markets.

4  
5 SECTION 3. All provisions of this Act of a general and permanent nature  
6 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code  
7 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

8  
9 SECTION 4. If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to  
10 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
11 other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without  
12 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
13 Act are declared to be severable.

14  
15 SECTION 5. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are  
16 hereby repealed.

17  
18 SECTION 6. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly  
19 that there exists a significant shortfall in postsecondary education for  
20 persons seeking to become highly skilled in the use of information technology;  
21 this act is designed to address that shortfall; and that until this act goes  
22 into effect, the shortfall will not be addressed and the citizens of this  
23 state will continue to seek educational opportunities in other states.  
24 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately  
25 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall  
26 become effective on the date of its approval by the Governor. If the bill is  
27 neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, it shall become effective on the  
28 expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill.  
29 If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, it shall  
30 become effective on the date the last house overrides the veto.

31 /s/ B. Johnson, et al  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36