

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H12/29/03 S1/8/04* Call Item 4  
2 84th General Assembly **A Bill**  
3 Second Extraordinary Session, 2003 HOUSE BILL 1034  
4

5 By: Representatives Cleveland, P. Bookout, Chesterfield, Fite, J. Johnson, Moore, Seawel, Thomas,  
6 White  
7 By: Senator Salmon  
8  
9

10 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

11 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS COMMISSION FOR  
12 COORDINATION OF EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS; AND FOR  
13 OTHER PURPOSES.  
14

15 **Subtitle**

16 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS COMMISSION  
17 FOR COORDINATION OF EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS.  
18  
19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
21

22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 1, is amended to add an  
23 additional subchapter to read as follows:

24 6-1-301. Arkansas Commission for Coordination of Educational Efforts.

25 (a) There is created the "Arkansas Commission for Coordination of  
26 Educational Efforts".

27 (b) The commission is composed of the following members:

28 (1) The Director of the Department of Higher Education;

29 (2) The Director of the Department of Education;

30 (3) The Director of the Department of Workforce Education;

31 (4) The Director of the Division of Child Care and Early  
32 Childhood Education of the Department of Human Services or the director's  
33 designee;

34 (5) The Director of the Department of Economic Development;

35 (6) The Vice President for Agriculture at the University of  
36 Arkansas;



- 1           (7) The Governor or the Governor's designee;  
2           (8) One (1) public school administrator appointed by the  
3 Governor;  
4           (9) One (1) public school teacher appointed by the Governor;  
5           (10) One (1) president or chancellor of a four-year university  
6 appointed by the Presidents Council;  
7           (11) One (1) president or chancellor of a two-year college or  
8 two-year branch of a four-year university appointed by the Presidents  
9 Council;  
10           (12) One (1) member of the board of trustees of a four-year  
11 university or system of colleges and universities appointed by the Presidents  
12 Council;  
13           (13) One (1) member of the board of trustees of a two-year  
14 college or branch appointed by the Presidents Council;  
15           (14) One (1) member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of  
16 the Senate from a list of three (3) nominees submitted by the Executive  
17 Director of the Arkansas Education Association;  
18           (15) One (1) member appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
19 Representatives from a list of three (3) nominees submitted by the Executive  
20 Director of the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators;  
21           (16) One (1) member appointed jointly by the Speaker of the  
22 House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate from a list of three (3)  
23 nominees submitted by the Executive Director of the Arkansas School Boards  
24 Association; and  
25           (17) One (1) representative of a predominantly black college or  
26 university in Arkansas appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
27 Representatives.  
28           (c)(1) Each member of the commission shall be a resident of the State  
29 of Arkansas throughout his or her term on the commission.  
30           (2) None of the members appointed from the board of trustees of  
31 a college or university shall be from an institution from which the president  
32 or chancellor of the institution is serving on the commission.  
33           (d) The appointed members of the commission shall serve staggered  
34 terms of four (4) years.  
35           (e) If a vacancy occurs in an appointed position, the vacancy shall be  
36 filled for the unexpired term by an appointment made in the same manner as

1 the original appointment.

2  
3 6-1-302. Organization and operation.

4 (a) The Arkansas Commission for Coordination of Educational Efforts  
5 shall annually elect a chair, a vice chair, and a secretary.

6 (b)(1) The commission shall meet at least quarterly each year.  
7 Special meetings may be held at the call of the chair, as needed.

8 (2) The commission shall meet at such times and places that the  
9 chair deems necessary, but no meeting shall be held outside the State of  
10 Arkansas.

11 (c) A quorum for conducting business is eight (8) members of the  
12 commission.

13 (d) The Department of Higher Education shall provide staff support for  
14 the commission.

15 (e) The members of the commission may receive expense reimbursement in  
16 accordance with § 25-16-902. The expense reimbursement shall be paid by the  
17 Department of Education from moneys available for that purpose.

18  
19 6-1-303. Duties.

20 (a) The Arkansas Commission for Coordination of Educational Efforts  
21 shall study and recommend policies related to the improvement of coordination  
22 among and between the levels of education from pre-kindergarten to the  
23 graduate level.

24 (b)(1) The commission shall give priority to improvements benefiting  
25 students at all levels of education in Arkansas.

26 (2) The commission shall work to benefit the State of Arkansas  
27 and improve the economy of the state by recommending a more efficient system  
28 of education.

29 (c) The commission shall:

30 (1) Recommend policies on concurrent enrollment of high school  
31 students in college courses;

32 (2) Make recommendations related to a common calendar for all  
33 public schools and institutions of higher education;

34 (3) Study the various delivery systems of distance learning and  
35 recommend ways to improve and make more efficient a delivery system for  
36 Arkansas;

1           (4) Recommend ways that the public schools, the Department of  
2 Education, the Department of Higher Education, and the institutions of higher  
3 education can improve working relationships in order to improve the  
4 effectiveness of teaching for the public schools;

5           (5)(A) Recommend ways of improving the transfer of credit from  
6 institution to institution for the benefit of the student.

7           (B) This includes recommendations for improving the  
8 transfer from two-year to four-year institutions as well as the transfer  
9 among two-year institutions and four-year institutions;

10          (6) Make recommendations related to aligning the curriculum from  
11 kindergarten through the bachelor's level in colleges and universities;

12          (7) Recommend ways of improving the link between educational  
13 efforts and economic development for Arkansas;

14          (8) Recommend priorities for the funding of education;

15          (9) Review all current scholarship programs of the state and  
16 institutions of higher education and make recommendations for improving  
17 future scholarship programs;

18          (10) Make recommendations related to the future need for  
19 remediation of beginning college students; and

20          (11) Recommend any other improvements in education at any level  
21 to benefit students and the state.

22  
23          6-1-304. Reporting requirements.

24          (a)(1) The Arkansas Commission for Coordination of Educational Efforts  
25 shall submit an annual report to the Governor, Senate and House Committees on  
26 Education, the State Board of Education, the Arkansas Higher Education  
27 Coordinating Board, and to all boards of trustees of public institutions of  
28 higher education.

29          (2) Additional reports shall be given to committees of the  
30 General Assembly upon request of a committee.

31          (b) All state agencies, institutions of higher education, and public  
32 schools shall cooperate with the commission and supply data and information  
33 needed by the commission in a timely manner.

34  
35          SECTION 2. Special provisions.

36          (a) The first meeting of the Arkansas Commission for Coordination of

1 Educational Efforts shall be held within thirty (30) days after the effective  
2 date of this act.

3 (b) The Director of the Department of Education shall call the first  
4 meeting of the commission and shall preside at the meeting until the  
5 commission elects a chair.

6 (c) At the first meeting, the commission shall elect a chair, a  
7 vicechair, and a secretary.

8 (d) The initial terms of the appointed members of the commission shall  
9 be determined by lot so that two (2) members have a one-year term, two (2)  
10 members have a two-year term, two (2) members have a three-year term, and  
11 three (3) members have a four-year term.

12  
13 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
14 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Arkansas Supreme Court in  
15 Lake View School District No. 25 v. Huckabee, 351 Ark. 31 (2002) declared the  
16 now existing system of education to be unconstitutional because it is both  
17 inequitable and inadequate; that educational reforms applied to public  
18 schools has an effect on other segments of the state's educational system;  
19 that the cooperation of all segments of the educational system is necessary  
20 to ensure the success of educational reforms; that to foster cooperation this  
21 act creates the Arkansas Commission for Coordination of Educational Efforts;  
22 and that this act is immediately necessary to assist in the enhancement of  
23 the state's educational system. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist  
24 and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public  
25 peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

26 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

27 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
28 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the  
29 bill; or

30 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
31 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

32  
33 */s/ Cleveland*  
34  
35  
36