

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Second Extraordinary Session, 2003

Call Item 4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1034

4
5 By: Representatives Cleveland, P. Bookout, Chesterfield, Fite, J. Johnson, Moore, Seawel, Thomas,
6 White
7 By: Senator Salmon

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.

Subtitle

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

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

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 Department of Economic Development;

32 (5) The Vice President for Agriculture at the University of
33 Arkansas at Fayetteville;

34 (6) The Governor or the Governor's designee;

35 (7) One (1) public school administrator appointed by the
36 Governor;



1 (8) One (1) public school teacher appointed by the Governor;

2 (9) One (1) president or chancellor of a four-year university
3 appointed by the Presidents Council;

4 (10) One (1) president or chancellor of a two-year college or
5 two-year branch of a four-year university appointed by the Presidents
6 Council;

7 (11) One (1) member of the board of trustees of a four-year
8 university or system of colleges and universities appointed by the Presidents
9 Council;

10 (12) One (1) member of the board of trustees of a two-year
11 college or branch appointed by the Presidents Council;

12 (13) One (1) member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of
13 the Senate from a list of three (3) nominees submitted by the Executive
14 Director of the Arkansas Education Association;

15 (14) One (1) member appointed by the Speaker of the House of
16 Representatives from a list of three (3) nominees submitted by the Executive
17 Director of the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators; and

18 (15) One (1) member appointed jointly by the Speaker of the
19 House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate from a list of three (3)
20 nominees submitted by the Executive Director of the Arkansas School Boards
21 Association.

22 (c)(1) Each member of the commission shall be a resident of the State
23 of Arkansas throughout his or her term on the commission.

24 (2) None of the members appointed from the board of trustees of
25 a college or university shall be from an institution from which the president
26 or chancellor of the institution is serving on the commission.

27 (d) The appointed members of the commission shall serve staggered
28 terms of four (4) years.

29 (e) If a vacancy occurs in an appointed position, the vacancy shall be
30 filled for the unexpired term by an appointment made in the same manner as
31 the original appointment.

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33 6-1-302. Organization and operation.

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

36 (b)(1) The commission shall meet at least quarterly each year.

1 Special meetings may be held at the call of the chair, as needed.

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

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

7 (d) The Department of Education shall provide staff support for the
 8 commission.

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

12
 13 6-1-303. Duties.

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

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

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

23 (c) The commission shall:

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

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

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

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

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

1 (B) This includes recommendations for improving the
2 transfer from two-year to four-year institutions as well as the transfer
3 among two-year institutions and four-year institutions;

4 (6) Make recommendations related to aligning the curriculum from
5 kindergarten through the bachelor’s level in colleges and universities;

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

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

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

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

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

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17 6-1-304. Reporting requirements.

18 (a)(1) The Arkansas Commission for Coordination of Educational Efforts
19 shall submit an annual report to the Governor, Senate and House Committees on
20 Education, the State Board of Education, the Arkansas Higher Education
21 Coordinating Board, and to all boards of trustees of public institutions of
22 higher education.

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

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

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29 SECTION 2. Special provisions.

30 (a) The first meeting of the Arkansas Commission for Coordination of
31 Educational Efforts shall be held within thirty (30) days after the effective
32 date of this act.

33 (b) The Director of the Department of Education shall call the first
34 meeting of the commission and shall preside at the meeting until the
35 commission elects a chair.

36 (c) At the first meeting, the commission shall elect a chair, a

1 vicechair, and a secretary.

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

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

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

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

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

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