

1 State of Arkansas  
2 91st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2017  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1701

5 By: Representative Love  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM WITHIN THE  
9 DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO MAKE GRANTS TO  
10 HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO  
11 PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS TO OFFENDERS WHO ARE  
12 RECENTLY RELEASED OR SOON-TO-BE RELEASED FROM  
13 INCARCERATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

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16 TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM TO MAKE  
17 GRANTS TO HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND  
18 UNIVERSITIES TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL  
19 PROGRAMS TO OFFENDERS WHO ARE RECENTLY  
20 RELEASED OR SOON-TO-BE RELEASED FROM  
21 INCARCERATION.  
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 61, Subchapter 4, is amended  
28 to add an additional section to read as follows:

29 6-61-403. Offender Education Re-entry Pilot Program.

30 (a) As used in this section:

31 (1) "Educational program" means:

32 (A) A program of study designed to lead to a high school  
33 equivalency diploma; or

34 (B) Educational courses that are transferrable for course  
35 credit to the historically black college or university that offers the  
36 courses;



1           (2) "Eligible offender" means an individual who has pleaded  
2 guilty or nolo contendere to or been found guilty of a criminal offense and:

3           (A) Has been released from incarceration for not longer  
4 than one (1) year; or

5           (B) Is scheduled to be released from incarceration in not  
6 longer than one (1) year; and

7           (3) "Historically black college or university" means a part B  
8 institution as defined under 20 U.S.C. § 1061(2), as it existed on January 1,  
9 2017.

10          (b) The Department of Higher Education shall establish a five-year  
11 pilot program that makes grants to historically black colleges and  
12 universities in this state to provide educational programs to eligible  
13 offenders in order to facilitate re-entry into the community.

14          (c) The chief executive officer of a historically black college or  
15 university in this state seeking a grant under this section shall submit an  
16 application at the time, in the manner, and containing the information  
17 required by the department.

18          (d)(1) The portion of the costs of an educational program supported by  
19 a grant under subsection (b) of this section shall not exceed fifty percent  
20 (50%).

21          (2) A recipient of a grant under subsection (b) of this section  
22 may meet the matching requirement under subdivision (d)(1) of this section by  
23 making in-kind contributions of goods or services that are directly related  
24 to the purpose for which the grant was awarded.

25          (e) The department shall report the results of the pilot program to  
26 the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education no  
27 later than six (6) months following the conclusion of the pilot program.

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