

1 State of Arkansas  
2 92nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2019  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 135

5 By: Senators K. Hammer, J. English  
6 By: Representative Cozart  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO REVISE THE METHOD OF FUNDING SECONDARY  
10 VOCATIONAL AREA CENTERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

## Subtitle

14 TO REVISE THE METHOD OF FUNDING SECONDARY  
15 VOCATIONAL AREA CENTERS.  
16

17  
18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
19

20 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative intent.

21 It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

22 (1) Funding for secondary vocational area centers should reflect  
23 a number of fast-changing factors, such as regional and statewide workforce  
24 priorities, as well as demand on an industry-by-industry basis;

25 (2) The definition of "full time equivalent students" and the  
26 funding level tied to the number of full time equivalent students be aligned  
27 with a regulatory system that allows the Department of Career Education to  
28 monitor and adjust these terms in response to the changing business  
29 environment;

30 (3) The current funding structure of three thousand two hundred  
31 fifty dollars (\$3,250) per full time equivalent student be discontinued in  
32 favor of establishing a tiered funding structure for distributing vocational  
33 center aid determined by the Department of Career Education and approved by  
34 the Career Education and Workforce Development Board; and

35 (4) A tiered funding structure for distributing vocational  
36 center aid determined by the Department of Career Education and approved by



1 the Career Education and Workforce Development Board take into account the  
2 different funding needs and costs of individual programs of study or the  
3 workforce needs of the State of Arkansas.

4  
5 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(2)(B), concerning public  
6 school funding, is amended to read as follows:

7 (B)(i)(a) Beginning with the ~~2007-2008~~ 2020-2021 school  
8 year, secondary vocational area center funding shall be ~~three thousand two~~  
9 ~~hundred fifty dollars (\$3,250)~~ multiplied by the number of students enrolled  
10 ~~in a secondary vocational area center during the previous school year~~  
11 established by a tiered funding structure for distributing vocational center  
12 aid for each full-time equivalent student, as defined by the Department of  
13 Career Education.

14 (b) The vocational center aid under  
15 subdivision (b)(2)(B)(i)(a) of this section shall be determined by the  
16 Department of Career Education and approved by the Career Education and  
17 Workforce Development Board.

18 (ii) ~~Funding for students in secondary vocational~~  
19 ~~area centers shall be distributed based on rules promulgated by the Career~~  
20 ~~Education and Workforce Development Board~~ The Department of Career Education  
21 shall promulgate rules for:

22 (a) A tiered system of determining the amount  
23 of vocational center aid under subdivision (b)(2)(B)(i) of this section for  
24 each secondary vocational area center; and

25 (b) The method of distribution of the  
26 vocational center aid under subdivision (b)(2)(B)(i) of this section.

27  
28 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-51-305(a)(1), concerning the financing of  
29 vocational centers, is amended to read as follows:

30 (a)(1) Vocational centers shall be financed ~~with a combination of~~  
31 ~~training fees from schools sending students and~~ by distributing vocational  
32 center aid from the Public School Fund according to rules and regulations  
33 promulgated by the ~~State Board of Career Education~~ Career Education and  
34 Workforce Development Board.