

1 **State of Arkansas**  
2 **78th General Assembly**  
3 **First Extraordinary Session, 1992**  
4 **By: Senator Hopkins**

Call Item 38  
**A BILL ACT 52 OF 1992**

SENATE BILL 14

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7 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

8 "AN ACT TO CREATE A PILOT PROGRAM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF  
9 HIGHER EDUCATION TO BE KNOWN AS THE "CENTER FOR WORKFORCE  
10 EXCELLENCE."

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

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14 SECTION 1. For the purpose of this Act:

15 (1) "Center" means the Center for Workforce Excellence; and

16 (2) "Department" means the Department of Higher Education.

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18 SECTION 2. (a) There is created in the Department of Higher Education  
19 the "Center for Workforce Excellence" which shall conduct a pilot project to  
20 assist industrial development through the coordination of training programs  
21 and services.

22 (b) The pilot project shall be a cooperative effort among the  
23 Department of Higher Education, Arkansas Industrial Development Commission,  
24 Henderson State University, Ouachita Technical College, Arkadelphia High  
25 School, Malvern High School, private industry, and other appropriate groups.

26 (c) Local industrial groups, local governmental units, and private  
27 enterprise should provide much of the financial support needed for the pilot  
28 project. Such support should include financial support for items such as  
29 office space, expenses, and utilities.

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31 SECTION 3. (a) The goals of the Center shall be to:

32 (1) Facilitate the development of students and workers, members of  
33 the "learning force" within Arkansas communities and companies, with a focus  
34 on workers' skills and workplace tools of the future, particularly high level  
35 technical training and education.

36 (2) Foster skills, knowledge and understanding relevant to real

1 world jobs, careers and lifestyles through the economic competitiveness of  
2 students, workers, communities, companies and associated groups in a global  
3 political community.

4 (b) The Center shall develop a strategic management plan to include  
5 initial industry services training, with a survey of existing facilities,  
6 opportunities for training with the potential project area, and development of  
7 a campaign plan to overcome training deficiencies in the areas through  
8 reliance on existing resources through the cooperation and development of new  
9 training capability through innovative low cost means.

10 (c) The Center shall assist private industry in determining what  
11 training services and programs are available, the steps necessary to provide  
12 the training services and programs needed by the industry, and how long it  
13 would take to develop the needed training services and programs.

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15 SECTION 4. (a) The Department of Higher Education shall establish a  
16 local advisory committee to provide guidance to the Center in implementing the  
17 pilot project. The local advisory committee shall include representatives of  
18 the Department of Higher Education, Arkansas Industrial Development  
19 Commission, Henderson State University, Ouachita Technical College,  
20 Arkadelphia High School, Malvern High School, and private industry. The  
21 Department may include representatives of other appropriate groups and  
22 organizations.

23 (b) The purpose of the local advisory committee shall be to assist the  
24 Center in determining the proper focus for industrial development.

25 (c) The local advisory committee shall make recommendations concerning:

26 (1) "soft skills" interpersonal relationships, such as discipline  
27 and self reliance and an ability to communicate properly;

28 (2) "hard skills" such as skills required of workers by technical  
29 training;

30 (3) apprenticeship and internship programs in students and  
31 potential workers; and

32 (4) other issues concerning the training and development of  
33 students and workers.

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35 SECTION 5. The Department of Higher Education shall establish  
36 regulations governing the operation of the Center.

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*SECTION 6. The Department of Higher Education may, as it deems appropriate, establish additional pilot projects for workforce excellence in other areas of the state. Each pilot project shall be established in cooperation with institutions of education, private industry and other appropriate groups in the area to be served. For each new pilot project the Department of Higher Education shall establish a local advisory committee which shall include representatives of institutions of education, private industry and other appropriate groups. The duties of the local advisory committee shall be the same as those provided in Section 4 of this act.*

*SECTION 7. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.*

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

*SECTION 9. All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.*

*SECTION 10. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is hereby found and determined by the Seventy-Eighth General Assembly, meeting in Extraordinary Session, that in order to attract high technology industry to this state that a highly trained workforce is essential; and that the provisions of this act will provide necessary resources for such workforce. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.*

*/s/Sen. Hopkins*

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APPROVED: 3-17-92