

**Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed  
prior to this session of the General Assembly.  
Act 463 of the Regular Session**

1 State of Arkansas  
2 87th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2009  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1962

5 By: Representatives Wills, Ragland, Abernathy, Allen, T. Baker, Barnett, Davenport, J. Dickinson,  
6 Dismang, Dunn, J. Edwards, George, Hoyt, Lindsey, M. Martin, Maxwell, Reep, Reynolds, Wells,  
7 Williams, Word

8 By: Senators Capps, B. Johnson, Altes, G. Baker, Bookout, Broadway, Bryles, Elliott, D. Johnson, J.  
9 Key, Luker, Madison, P. Malone, Salmon, R. Thompson, Trusty, Whitaker

## For An Act To Be Entitled

10  
11  
12 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A POST-DOCTORAL SCIENCE AND  
13 ENGINEERING GRANT PROGRAM FOR PURPOSES OF  
14 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND KNOWLEDGE-BASED JOB  
15 GROWTH; TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR THE  
16 DISBURSEMENT OF GRANTS FROM THE PROGRAM; TO  
17 DESIGNATE THE ARKANSAS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
18 AUTHORITY AS THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE PROGRAM;  
19 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
20

## Subtitle

21  
22 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A POST-DOCTORAL  
23 SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING GRANT PROGRAM.  
24  
25  
26

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

28  
29 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 15, Chapter 3 is amended to add an  
30 additional subchapter to read as follows:

31 15-3-401. Legislative intent.

32 (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly:

33 (1) To assist growing, technology-based enterprises by:

34 (A) Attracting and retaining highly-trained science and  
35 engineering post-doctoral graduates by encouraging the establishment of



1 career opportunities within the State of Arkansas;

2 (B) Providing scientific expertise to emerging technology-  
 3 based enterprises by helping them hire post-doctoral graduates to address the  
 4 needs of these businesses; and

5 (C) Developing a growing core of scientific job talent in  
 6 Arkansas by attracting and retaining post-doctoral science and engineering  
 7 graduates; and

8 (2) That the establishment of the Post-Doctoral Science and  
 9 Engineering Grant Program shall benefit the State of Arkansas as a whole and  
 10 that provisions be made to ensure that all parts of the state have an  
 11 opportunity to benefit from this subchapter.

12  
 13 15-3-402. Application for funding.

14 (a) The Arkansas Science and Technology Authority shall make available  
 15 forms upon which a business eligible for a grant under § 15-3-403 may apply  
 16 for a grant to support the hiring of post-doctoral science and engineering  
 17 graduates to work in areas of their expertise in Arkansas.

18 (b) Within thirty (30) days of the receipt of an application, the  
 19 Arkansas Science and Technology Authority shall notify the applicant whether:

20 (1) The applicant meets the criteria for benefits; and

21 (2) Funds are available to assist the business in the hiring of  
 22 post-doctoral science and engineering graduates.

23  
 24 15-3-403. Eligibility for grants.

25 To qualify for a grant authorized under § 15-3-404, a business shall:

26 (1) Have operations within the State of Arkansas that are in one  
 27 (1) of the six (6) categories of targeted businesses identified in § 15-4-  
 28 2703(43)(A);

29 (2) Pay average hourly wages in excess of one hundred and ten  
 30 percent (110%) of the county or state average hourly wage, whichever is less;

31 (3) Agree to hire a post-doctoral graduate; and

32 (4) Provide proof that the post-doctoral graduate is an Arkansas  
 33 taxpayer and a resident of the State of Arkansas.

34  
 35 15-3-404. Authorization of grants.

36 (a) If an applicant meets the requirements of § 15-3-403, the applicant

1 shall be placed in one (1) of the following four (4) levels and be eligible  
2 for a grant for up to five (5) years:

3 (1)(A) An eligible business with a payroll in excess of ten  
4 million dollars (\$10,000,000) is eligible to receive a grant of up to thirty-  
5 five thousand dollars (\$35,000) over the five-year period.

6 (B) If approved, the business will receive:

7 (i) Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in year one (1);

8 (ii) Ten thousand dollars (10,000) in year two (2);

9 (iii) Seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500)

10 in year three (3);

11 (iv) Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in year four

12 (4); and

13 (v) Two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) in

14 year five (5).

15 (2)(A) An eligible business with a payroll in excess of five  
16 million dollars (\$5,000,000) but no more than ten million dollars  
17 (\$10,000,000) may be eligible to receive a grant of up to fifty-two thousand  
18 five hundred dollars (\$52,500) over the five-year year period.

19 (B) If approved, the business will receive:

20 (i) Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) in year one

21 (1);

22 (ii) Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) in year two

23 (2);

24 (iii) Eleven thousand two hundred fifty dollars

25 (\$11,250) in year three (3);

26 (iv) Seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) in

27 year four (4); and

28 (v) Three thousand seven hundred fifty dollars

29 (\$3,750) in year five (5).

30 (3)(A) An eligible business with a payroll in excess of at least  
31 one million dollars (\$1,000,000) but no more than five million dollars  
32 (\$5,000,000) may be eligible to receive a grant of up to seventy thousand  
33 dollars (\$70,000) over the five-year period.

34 (B) If approved; the business will receive:

35 (i) Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) in year one

36 (1);

- 1                    (ii) Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) in year two
- 2 (2);
- 3                    (iii) Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) in year
- 4 three (3);
- 5                    (iv) Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in year four
- 6 (4); and
- 7                    (v) Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in year five (5).

8                    (4)(A) An eligible business with a payroll of less than one  
 9 million dollars (\$1,000,000) may be eligible to receive a grant of up to  
 10 eighty-seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$87,500) over the five-year  
 11 period.

12                    (B) If approved, the business will receive:

- 13                    (i) Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) in year
- 14 one (1);
- 15                    (ii) Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) in year
- 16 two (2);
- 17                    (iii) Eighteen thousand seven hundred fifty dollars
- 18 (\$18,750) in year three (3);
- 19                    (iv) Twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$12,500)
- 20 in year four (4); and
- 21                    (v) Six thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$6,250)
- 22 in year five (5).

23                    (b) The grants authorized by this section shall be administered and  
 24 paid according to rules established by the Arkansas Science and Technology  
 25 Authority.

26                    (c) The authority shall not provide further grant funds to the  
 27 approved business if at any time during the five-year grant period the post-  
 28 doctoral graduate is no longer employed in Arkansas by the approved business.

29

30                    15-3-405. Rules.

31                    (a) The Arkansas Science and Technology Authority, through the  
 32 promulgation of rules in accordance with the Arkansas Administrative  
 33 Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq., shall establish procedures, consistent  
 34 with this subchapter, to carry out the intent of this legislation.

35                    (b) The authority shall establish by rule opportunities for assisting in the  
 36 hiring of post-doctoral graduates in each of the four (4) congressional

1 districts in the state.

APPROVED: 3/18/2009