

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
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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.

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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.

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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.

35 **APPROVED: 2/19/19**