

Act 635 of the 1989 Regular Session.

Act 635

SB405

By: Senator Gordon

"AN ACT TO CREATE THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT STUDY COMMITTEE; TO PRESCRIBE THE POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. The purpose of this act is to establish the Technical Education Enhancement Study Committee to study technical education being offered at the various state supported vocational-technical schools and institutions of higher education in Arkansas and to recommend changes which should be made to enhance technical education and make it more responsive to the needs of the State of Arkansas.

SECTION 2. (a) There is hereby created the Technical Educational Enhancement Study Committee.

(b) The Committee shall be comprised of the following members:

- (1) Two (2) members from the State Board of Higher Education appointed by the chairman of that board;
- (2) Two (2) members from the State Board of Vocational Education appointed by the chairman of that board;
- (3) Two (2) members from the Arkansas Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore;
- (4) Two (2) members from the Arkansas House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker;
- (5) One (1) President or Chancellor of a state university appointed by the presidents and chancellors of the state universities;
- (6) One (1) President or Chancellor of a community college or two-year branch of a state university appointed by the presidents and chancellors of the community colleges and two-year branches of state universities;
- (7) Two (2) Directors of state vocational-technical schools appointed by the Director of the Vocational and Technical Education Division; and
- (8) Two (2) members appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall serve as Chairman of the Committee.

SECTION 3. (a) The Committee shall have the authority and the responsibility to make a thorough study of technical education being offered at the various state supported vocational-technical schools and institutions of higher education in the State.

(b) Such study shall cover all aspects of vocational and technical programs and shall include the following:

- (1) quality of vocational and technical program;
- (2) access to programs by citizens of Arkansas;
- (3) functions of various types of institutions (including community colleges, vocational-technical schools, and technical colleges or institutes);
- (4) approaches to upgrading programs and institutions;
- (5) costs and efficiency;

- (6) financing of programs including state funding, local millage, student fees, bonded indebtedness;
- (7) level of faculty salaries;
- (8) accreditation;
- (9) the definition of college level program;
- (10) the granting of college credit and associate degrees in Applied Technology;
- (11) transfer of credit among institutions;
- (12) organization and governance of programs and institutions; and
- (13) such other matters as the committee may deem necessary.

(c) The Committee shall make appropriate recommendations regarding changes which should be made to enhance technical education and make it more responsive to the needs of the State of Arkansas.

SECTION 4. The Technical Education Enhancement Study Committee shall begin holding meetings within sixty (60) days after the effective date of this Act, shall file a report of its findings and recommendations with the State Board of Higher Education, the State Board of Vocational Education, and the Joint Interim Committee on Education of the Arkansas General Assembly on or before July 1, 1990.

SECTION 5. The Arkansas Department of Higher Education and the Vocational and Technical Education Division shall provide such assistance and staff support to the work of the Technical Education Enhancement Study Committee as the Committee shall request. The Presidents and Chancellors of the state institutions of higher education and the Directors of the state vocational-technical schools shall cooperate with the Committee and provide such information and assistance as the Committee shall request.

SECTION 6. The provisions of this act shall expire on July 1, 1990.

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. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 9. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly that it is essential to the well-being of the people of Arkansas and to the future growth and development of the State that a high quality of technical education be offered at the various institutions of higher education and vocational-technical schools in the State; that it is urgent that a study be made as soon as possible of the enhancement of technical education in the State; that this Act is designed to establish a committee to conduct such a study and to make a report of its findings to the State Board of Higher Education, the State Board of Vocational Education, and the Joint Interim Committee on Education on or before July 1, 1990 to enable the 1991 General Assembly to enact appropriate legislation to implement recommendations of the Committee; and that this Act should be given effect immediately to enable the Committee to begin its study and deliberations as soon as possible. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

APPROVED: March 17, 1989

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