

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 423

5 By: Senators U. Lindsey, J. English
6 By: Representative D. Douglas
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS IN THE ARKANSAS CODE
10 CONCERNING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION; AND FOR
11 OTHER PURPOSES.
12
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Subtitle

15 TO AMEND PROVISIONS IN THE ARKANSAS CODE
16 CONCERNING CAREER AND TECHNICAL
17 EDUCATION.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code §§ 6-5-1003 and 6-5-1004 are amended to read
23 as follows:

24 6-5-1003. College and career readiness ~~program~~ standards.

25 (a)(1) The Department of Career Education shall work in collaboration
26 with the Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education to
27 develop college and career readiness ~~program~~ standards for career and
28 technical education ~~program-of-study~~ courses.

29 (2) College and career readiness ~~program~~ standards shall address
30 the importance of rigorous academic standards and the role rigorous academic
31 standards have in higher education.

32 (b) The college and career readiness ~~program~~ standards for career and
33 technical education ~~program-of-study~~ courses shall incorporate ~~consistent~~
34 ~~framework to~~ current frameworks that promote sustainability of career and
35 technical education programs of study, ~~including that include:~~

36 (1) Legislation, local resources, and administrative policies



1 that promote career and technical education ~~program-of-study~~ development and
2 implementation within a school district;

3 (2) Partnerships with educators, businesses, and other community
4 stakeholders that support career and technical education ~~program-of-study~~
5 design, implementation, and maintenance;

6 (3) Professional development opportunities for administrators
7 and teachers who foster career and technical education ~~programs-of-study~~,
8 including design, implementation, and maintenance;

9 (4) Accountability and evaluation systems and strategies that
10 gather quantitative and qualitative data on both career and technical
11 education ~~program-of-study~~ components and student outcomes to determine the
12 effectiveness of each program of study;

13 (5) Clear content standards that:

14 (A) Define what a student is expected to know and what the
15 student should be able to do to achieve success in college or in a career;
16 and

17 (B) Align and integrate curriculum and instruction;

18 (6)(A) Sequences of secondary and postsecondary career and
19 technical education ~~program-of-study~~ courses that help students transition to
20 postsecondary education without requiring duplicate classes or remedial
21 education.

22 (B) The Department of Career Education, in collaboration
23 with the Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education,
24 shall establish a common course numbering system that incorporates career and
25 technical education ~~program-of-study~~ courses at both the secondary and
26 postsecondary level;

27 (7) Formal credit transfer agreements between secondary schools
28 and postsecondary institutions of higher education;

29 (8) Comprehensive guidance counseling and academic advisory
30 systems developed by the Department of Career Education in collaboration with
31 the Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education that:

32 (A) Enable students to make informed decisions about which
33 program of study to pursue;

34 (B) Are based on state or local guidance and counseling
35 standards, for example, the National Career Development Guidelines;

36 (C) Ensure that guidance counselors and academic advisors

1 have current information about career and technical education programs of
 2 study;

3 (D) Offer information and tools to help students learn
 4 about postsecondary education and career options, including prerequisites
 5 that may be required;

6 (E) Provide resources for students to identify career
 7 interests and aptitudes and to select an appropriate career and technical
 8 education program of study based on the results;

9 (F) Provide information for parents, including workshops
 10 on college financial aid and applications, preparing students for college and
 11 college applications, and preparing students for careers; and

12 (G) Provide web-based resources and tools for obtaining
 13 student financial assistance;

14 (9) Innovative and creative instructional approaches that enable
 15 teachers to integrate academic, career, and technical instruction; and

16 (10) Valid and reliable technical skills assessments ~~that~~
 17 ~~provide ongoing information on whether or not a student is attaining the~~
 18 ~~necessary knowledge and skills for entry into postsecondary education or a~~
 19 ~~career in his or her selected career and technical education program of~~
 20 ~~study.~~

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 22 6-5-1004. Technical skills assessments.

23 (a) The Department of Career Education shall ~~provide~~ recognize valid
 24 and reliable technical skills assessments that provide ~~information on whether~~
 25 ~~or not a student is attaining the necessary~~ evaluation of students' knowledge
 26 and skills necessary for entry into postsecondary education or a career in
 27 ~~his or her a selected career and technical education~~ program of study.

28 (b) The technical skills assessment shall:

29 (1)(A) Be a third-party, industry-recognized assessment
 30 ~~recognized by industry or an assessment developed or~~ approved by the
 31 department that is based on current industry standards.

32 (B)(i) The department shall provide a current list of
 33 approved third-party, industry-recognized assessments.

34 (ii) The third-party, industry-recognized
 35 assessments shall be reviewed and approved by the department using a process
 36 developed by the department;

