

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
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4

As Engrossed: S3/8/21

A Bill

SENATE BILL 397

5 By: Senators Irvin, Bledsoe, B. Davis, J. English
6 By: Representatives Speaks, Barker, Bentley, Brown, Cavanaugh, Crawford, Dalby, D. Ferguson, C. Fite,
7 M. Gray, Haak, Lundstrum, J. Mayberry, McKenzie, Vaught
8

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE HIGHER EDUCATION CONSUMER GUIDE
10 ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11
12

Subtitle

13 TO CREATE THE HIGHER EDUCATION CONSUMER
14 GUIDE ACT.
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 61, is amended to add an
22 additional subchapter to read as follows:

23 Subchapter 17 – Higher Education Consumer Guide Act
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25 6-61-1701. Title.

26 This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Higher
27 Education Consumer Guide Act".
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29 6-61-1702. Definitions.

30 As used in this subchapter:

31 (1) "Peer institution of higher education" means an in-state or
32 out-of-state state-supported institution of higher education that is selected
33 to be used for comparative analysis and benchmarking of institutional
34 qualities; and

35 (2) "State-supported institution of higher education" means a
36 state-supported two-year or four-year college or university.



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2 6-61-1703. Higher Education Consumer Guide.

3 (a)(1) The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall create a
4 Higher Education Consumer Guide that is designed for use by prospective
5 students and parents and legal guardians of prospective students at a state-
6 supported institution of higher education.

7 (2) The Higher Education Consumer Guide created by the board
8 under subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall be provided to each state-
9 supported institution of higher education for use in the prospective student
10 application process at each state-supported institution of higher education.

11 (b) The Higher Education Consumer Guide created by the board under
12 subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall identify the:

13 (1) Institutional grouping to which each state-supported
14 institution of higher education is assigned under the board's accountability
15 system; and

16 (2) Peer institutions of higher education associated with each
17 state-supported institution of higher education.

18 (c)(1) The Higher Education Consumer Guide created by the board under
19 subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall include the following information
20 without limitation as it relates to the most recent state fiscal year for
21 which the information is available:

22 (A) Retention and graduation rates;

23 (B) The cost of tuition;

24 (C) The average amount borrowed and loan default rate;

25 (D) Percentage of students who applied for first-time
26 undergraduate admission and were offered admission to each state-supported
27 institution of higher education that is not determined to be an open
28 admission institution;

29 (E) Average composite test scores of students enrolled in
30 each state-supported institution of higher education;

31 (F) Job placement of students within the first three (3)
32 years of graduation;

33 (G) Income of college alumni over the first twenty (20)
34 years after completion of their credential;

35 (H) Percentage of students enrolled at each state-
36 supported institution of higher education from the top ten percent (10%) of a

1 public high school class located in Arkansas; and

2 (I) Average number of semesters for completion of an
3 associate's or bachelor's credential at the institution.

4 (2) Information provided under subdivision (c)(1) of this
5 section shall be compiled using data from the following sources without
6 limitation:

7 (A) The Division of Higher Education;

8 (B) The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System,
9 published by the National Center for Education Statistics;

10 (C) The College Scorecard;

11 (D) The Arkansas Economic Security Report; and

12 (E) The Arkansas State Longitudinal Data System and
13 interstate compacts for the sharing of employment data when reasonably
14 available upon the establishment of the Arkansas State Longitudinal Data
15 System.

16 (3) Information provided under subdivision (c)(1) of this
17 section shall be compared with the same information that is available for the
18 state fiscal year preceding:

19 (A) The most recent state fiscal year; and

20 (B) The reports for the most recent five (5) years.

21 (d) A prospective student shall verify that he or she has been
22 provided the Higher Education Consumer Guide before completing an application
23 to a state-supported institution of higher education.

24 (e) The Higher Education Consumer Guide required by this section shall
25 be made publicly available on the:

26 (1) Board's website; and

27 (2) Website of each state-supported institution of higher
28 education.

29 (f) The division shall promulgate rules to implement this subchapter.

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31 SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Rules.

32 (a) When adopting the initial rules required under this act, the
33 Division of Higher Education shall file the final rules with the Secretary of
34 State for adoption under § 25-15-204(f):

35 (1) On or before January 1, 2022; or

36 (2) If approval under § 10-3-309 has not occurred by January 1,

1 2022, as soon as practicable after approval under § 10-3-309.
2 (b) The division shall file the proposed rules with the Legislative
3 Council under § 10-3-309(c) sufficiently in advance of January 1, 2022, so
4 that the Legislative Council may consider the rules for approval before
5 January 1, 2022.

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/s/Irvin

APPROVED: 4/1/21