

1 State of Arkansas  
2 89th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2013

HR 1035

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5 By: Representative Carnine

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7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 SUPPORTING THE GROWTH OF QUALITY, AFFORDABLE, ONLINE  
9 EDUCATION IN THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS SYSTEM; AND  
10 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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12  
13 **Subtitle**

14 SUPPORTING THE GROWTH OF QUALITY,  
15 AFFORDABLE, ONLINE EDUCATION IN THE  
16 UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS SYSTEM.

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20 WHEREAS, public policy such as the Morrill Act of 1862 and the G.I.  
21 Bill of 1944 set a precedent in the United States that broadened the access  
22 to higher education in order to allow for upward economic, social, and  
23 intellectual mobility for all Americans, which made the United States the  
24 envy of the world; and

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26 WHEREAS, we live in a time when access to and completion of a  
27 postsecondary education is increasingly important to the economic viability  
28 of our state and the quality of life of its citizens; and

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30 WHEREAS, Arkansas ranks near the bottom of the United States in  
31 percentage of adults with college degrees, and Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe  
32 has charged lawmakers, business leaders, and higher education institutions to  
33 promote policies that will dramatically increase the number of Arkansans with  
34 postsecondary degrees by the year 2025; and

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36 WHEREAS, the cost to students for a quality postsecondary education



1 continues to rise as enrollment growth has far outpaced increases in state  
2 funding for Arkansas's institutions of higher education; and

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4 WHEREAS, Governor Beebe and the General Assembly have remained  
5 supportive of funding higher education during difficult economic times in  
6 which other states have dramatically reduced funding; and

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8 WHEREAS, because of job and family obligations, thousands of Arkansans  
9 are unable to access or complete the educational programs provided on the  
10 state's existing two-year and four-year college and university campuses; and

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12 WHEREAS, advancements in modern technology make it possible to deliver  
13 high-quality, affordable, postsecondary courses and degree programs to anyone  
14 with access to a computer or even a mobile device; and

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16 WHEREAS, these technological advances are being utilized across the  
17 world to help lower the cost of higher education and improve the retention  
18 and completion rates of students; and

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20 WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas has passed  
21 a resolution charging its president and campus leadership to explore the  
22 coordination and expansion of quality, affordable, accessible, online courses  
23 and degree programs,

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25 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-  
26 NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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28 THAT the House of Representatives applauds the efforts of the Board of  
29 Trustees of the University of Arkansas and the leadership of the University  
30 of Arkansas System and its campuses to further develop strategies and methods  
31 of delivery that will utilize innovative technologies to allow Arkansas  
32 students to graduate on time and provide greater access to those unserved and  
33 underserved Arkansans who require flexible, convenient, educational options  
34 in order to reach their full potential.

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