

1 State of Arkansas  
2 89th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2013  
4

As Engrossed: S3/12/13 S3/14/13

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 816

5 By: Senators Elliott, J. Key  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE VISION 2025 LEGISLATIVE  
9 COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION; TO  
10 PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ITS MEMBERS; TO  
11 DESCRIBE ITS PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES; AND FOR  
12 OTHER PURPOSES.  
13  
14

### Subtitle

15 TO ESTABLISH THE VISION 2025 LEGISLATIVE  
16 COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF HIGHER  
17 EDUCATION; TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT  
18 OF ITS MEMBERS; AND TO DESCRIBE ITS  
19 PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES.  
20  
21  
22

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
24

25 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

26 This act shall be known as the "Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on  
27 the Future of Higher Education".  
28

29 SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Creation.

30 (a) There is created the Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the  
31 Future of Higher Education.

32 (b) The Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher  
33 Education shall consist of the following twenty-four (24) members:

34 (1) The Governor or the Governor's designee;

35 (2) The Chair of the House Committee on Education or the chair's  
36 designee;



1           (3) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Education or the  
2 chair's designee;

3           (4) The Vice-chair of the House Committee on Education;

4           (5) The Vice-chair of the Senate Committee on Education;

5           (6) The Chair of the Higher Education Subcommittee of the  
6 Legislative Council or the chair's designee;

7           (7) The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's  
8 designee;

9           (8) The Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission  
10 or the director's designee;

11           (9) The Director of the Department of Career Education or the  
12 director's designee;

13           (10) The Director of the Department of Higher Education or the  
14 director's designee;

15           (11) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Association of Two-  
16 Year Colleges or the executive director's designee;

17           (12) A university president or chancellor appointed by the  
18 Governor;

19           (13) A representative from the Arkansas Association of  
20 Independent Colleges and Universities;

21           (14) A representative from a historically minority serving  
22 university or college in the state, appointed by the Governor;

23           (15) A representative from the Arkansas State Chamber of  
24 Commerce;

25           (16) A representative from the membership of a labor union  
26 appointed by the Governor;

27           (17) A representative from the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation;

28           (18) A representative from the Arkansas Advocates for Children  
29 and Families;

30           (19) Three (3) representatives from the community at large  
31 appointed by the Governor, such as students, parents, and grandparents with  
32 an interest in higher education; and

33           (20) Three (3) representatives that reflect the demographics of  
34 the state appointed by the Governor.

35           (c)(1) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Education or the chair's  
36 designee shall call the first meeting of the Vision 2025 Commission on the

1 Future of Higher Education within thirty (30) days of the effective date of  
2 this act and shall serve as the chair at the first meeting.

3 (2) At the first meeting of the Vision 2025 Legislative  
4 Commission on the Future of Higher Education, the Vision 2025 Legislative  
5 Commission on the Future of Higher Education members shall elect a chair from  
6 its legislative membership.

7 (3)(A) The Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of  
8 Higher Education shall conduct its meetings in Pulaski County at the State  
9 Capitol or other locations in the state as determined by the chair.

10 (B) At least one (1) meeting shall be held every three (3)  
11 months but may occur more often as determined by the chair.

12 (d) If a vacancy occurs on the Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on  
13 the Future of Higher Education, the vacancy shall be filled by the same  
14 process as the original appointment.

15 (e) The Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher  
16 Education shall establish rules and procedures for conducting the business of  
17 the Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education.

18 (f) Members of the Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of  
19 Higher Education shall serve without compensation but may receive  
20 reimbursement according to § 25-16-902.

21 (g) The Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher  
22 Education may expend funds and resources in carrying out the commission's  
23 purpose and responsibilities that are appropriated and funded to the  
24 commission by the General Assembly.

25 (h) A majority of the members of the Vision 2025 Legislative  
26 Commission on the Future of Higher Education shall constitute a quorum for  
27 transacting business of the Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future  
28 of Higher Education.

29 (i) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff for the  
30 Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education.

31  
32 SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Purpose and responsibilities.

33 (a)(1) The Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher  
34 Education shall study, research, and brainstorm ways in which higher  
35 education can transform and positively impact the state by 2025 and beyond  
36 2025.

1           (2) As a part of the commission's duty to study, research, and  
2 brainstorm ways in which higher education can transform and positively impact  
3 the state, the commission shall:

4                   (A) Explore what is required to:

5                           (i) Create a culture of college success as  
6 fundamental expectation for all students; and

7                           (ii) Reach the Governor's 2025 goal of the number of  
8 Arkansans with a degree or certificate from an institution of higher  
9 education;

10                   (B) Identify the role that higher education plays in:

11                           (i) Improving the quality of life for all Arkansans;  
12 and

13                           (ii) Contributing to economic opportunity and  
14 expansion;

15                   (C) Study barriers that impede access to higher education  
16 and ways to remove them, including without limitation;

17                           (i) The cost of tuition, fees, and room and board;

18                           (ii) Scholarship and grant funding availability; and

19                           (iii) Affordability, including ways to promote and  
20 encourage families to save for college; and

21                   (D) Identify how research opportunities can aid the state  
22 in achieving and surpassing the Governor's 2025 goals and beyond, including  
23 the identification of clear strategies to attract research opportunities to  
24 the state.

25           (b)(1) The commission shall develop a progress report and a final  
26 report that includes a set of recommendations for the General Assembly that  
27 will detail the work of the commission required under subsection (a) of this  
28 section.

29           (2)(A) The commission shall present the progress report and the  
30 final report to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the  
31 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the House Committee on Agriculture,  
32 Forestry, and Economic Development, the Senate Committee on Agriculture,  
33 Forestry, and Economic Development, and the public.

34                   (B) The progress report is due no later than April 30,  
35 2014 and the final report is due not later than October 15, 2014.

36

1 SECTION 4. DO NOT CODIFY. Expiration of the Vision 2025 Legislative  
2 Commission on the Future of Higher Education.

3 The Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher  
4 Education shall cease to exist on January 1, 2017.

5  
6 /s/Elliott  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36