

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1581

4
5 By: Representatives Gillam, Eubanks, Cozart, Lampkin, Leding, Ratliff, Lowery, Harris, M.J. Gray, Bell,
6 Baltz, McElroy, Murdock, C. Douglas, G. Hodges, Walker, Deffenbaugh, Sabin, C. Armstrong
7 By: Senators A. Clark, J. English, J. Hendren, U. Lindsey

For An Act To Be Entitled

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10 AN ACT TO CREATE THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE TO STUDY
11 THE REALIGNMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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16 TO CREATE THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE TO
17 STUDY THE REALIGNMENT OF HIGHER
18 EDUCATION.

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

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23 SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative Task Force
24 on the Realignment of Higher Education.

25 (a) There is created the Legislative Task Force on the Realignment of
26 Higher Education.

27 (b)(1) The task force shall consist of the following twelve (12)
28 members:

29 (A) The Chair of the House Committee on Education or the
30 chair's designee;

31 (B) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Education or the
32 chair's designee;

33 (C) Five (5) Representatives appointed by the Speaker of
34 the House of Representatives; and

35 (D) Five (5) Senators appointed by the President Pro
36 Tempore of the Senate.



1 (2) If a vacancy occurs on the task force, the vacancy shall be
2 filled by the same process as the original appointment.

3 (3) Legislative members of the task force shall be paid per diem
4 and mileage as authorized by law for attendance at meetings of interim
5 committees of the General Assembly.

6 (c)(1) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall call the
7 first meeting of the task force within thirty (30) days of the effective date
8 of this act and shall serve as chair of the task force at the first meeting.

9 (2) At the first meeting of the task force, the members of the
10 task force shall elect from its membership a chair and other officers as
11 needed for the transaction of its business.

12 (3)(A) The task force shall conduct its meetings at the State
13 Capitol or another site selected by the chair.

14 (B) Meetings of the task force shall be held at least one
15 (1) time every two (2) months but may occur more often at the call of the
16 chair.

17 (4) The task force shall establish rules and procedures for
18 conducting its business.

19 (5)(A) A majority of the members of the task force shall
20 constitute a quorum for transacting business of the task force.

21 (B) The task force may not take an action except by a
22 majority vote at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

23 (6) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff for
24 the task force.

25 (d) The purpose of the task force is to:

26 (1) Study the advantages and disadvantages of realigning state-
27 supported institutions of higher education;

28 (2) Identify current redundancies that exist with the current
29 structure of higher education in Arkansas;

30 (3) Determine what mechanisms are currently available or could
31 be available to provide cost savings to state-supported institutions of
32 higher education and to students;

33 (4) Improve accountability to and communications with the
34 General Assembly; and

35 (5) Review the structure of higher education systems in other
36 states, identifying those states with efficient and successful systems.

1 (e) On or before November 1, 2016, the task force shall file a report
2 of the task force's activities, findings, and recommendations with the
3 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the
4 Senate, the Chair of the House Committee on Education, and the Chair of the
5 Senate Committee on Education.

6 (f) The task force shall expire on December 31, 2016.

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