

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

As Engrossed: H2/24/17

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1543

5 By: Representative Hollowell  
6 By: Senator Caldwell  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 *AN ACT CONCERNING MERGERS OF TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND*  
10 *COMMUNITY COLLEGES; TO SPECIFY THE PROCESS FOR A*  
11 *MERGER OF CROWLEY’S RIDGE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE TO EAST*  
12 *ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE IF THE INSTITUTIONS CHOOSE*  
13 *TO MERGE; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER*  
14 *PURPOSES.*

## Subtitle

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18 *CONCERNING MERGERS OF TECHNICAL*  
19 *INSTITUTES AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES; TO*  
20 *SPECIFY THE PROCESS FOR A POSSIBLE MERGER*  
21 *OF CROWLEY’S RIDGE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE TO*  
22 *EAST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE; AND TO*  
23 *DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.*  
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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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28 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 51, is amended to add an*  
29 *additional subchapter to read as follows:*

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31 *Subchapter 11 –*  
32 *Procedures to Follow Upon Merger of Crowley’s Ridge Technical Institute to*  
33 *East Arkansas Community College*  
34

35 *6-51-1101. Merger.*

36 *(a)(1) This subchapter shall govern the merger of Crowley’s Ridge*



1 Technical Institute and East Arkansas Community College if:

2 (A) The Board of Directors of Crowley's Ridge Technical  
3 Institute votes to merge with East Arkansas Community College;

4 (B) The Board of Directors of East Arkansas Community  
5 College votes to accept the merger; and

6 (C) The merger is approved under § 6-53-401.

7 (2)(A)(i) When voting to accept a merger under subdivision  
8 (a)(1)(B) of this section, the Board of Directors of East Arkansas Community  
9 College shall designate a date for the merger to become effective.

10 (ii) The Board of Director of East Arkansas  
11 Community College shall consult the Board of Directors of Crowley's Ridge  
12 Technical Institute in determining the date under subdivision (a)(2)(A)(i) of  
13 this section.

14 (B) If a merger of Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute and  
15 East Arkansas Community College is approved under § 6-53-401, the merger  
16 shall become effective on the date designated under subdivision (a)(2)(A)(i)  
17 of this section.

18 (b) On the effective date of a merger under subdivision (a)(2) of this  
19 section, all statutory authority, powers, duties, functions, records,  
20 personnel, property, unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, or  
21 other funds, including the functions of budgeting or purchasing, of Crowley's  
22 Ridge Technical Institute shall be transferred to East Arkansas Community  
23 College.

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25 6-51-1102. Board of directors.

26 On the effective date of a merger under § 6-51-1101(a)(2):

27 (1) The Board of Directors of Crowley's Ridge Technical  
28 Institute shall be abolished; and

29 (2) The Board of Directors of East Arkansas Community College  
30 shall assume the powers and duties of the Board of Directors of Crowley's  
31 Ridge Technical Institute.

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33 6-51-1103. Purchasing.

34 (a) Upon the vote of the Board of Directors of Crowley's Ridge  
35 Technical Institute to merge with East Arkansas Community College under § 6-  
36 51-1101(a)(1)(A) and before the effective date of a merger under § 6-51-

1 1101(a)(2):

2 (1) Purchases by Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute shall be  
3 made under the Arkansas State Procurement Law, § 19-11-201; and

4 (2) Purchases by East Arkansas Community College may continue to  
5 be made under procedures that were applicable to East Arkansas Community  
6 College.

7 (b) This section shall not apply if a merger is not subsequently  
8 approved under § 6-51-1101(a) of this section.

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10 6-51-1104. Transfer of assets, obligations, records, personnel,  
11 property, unexpended balances, and legal authority.

12 Beginning on the effective date of a merger under § 6-51-1101(a)(2):

13 (1) All property and other rights, claims, and assets of  
14 Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute shall be transferred to East Arkansas  
15 Community College;

16 (2) All obligations of Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute shall  
17 be obligations of East Arkansas Community College;

18 (3)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (3)(B) of this section,  
19 all records, personnel, property, unexpended balances, and legal authority  
20 shall be transferred from Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute to East  
21 Arkansas Community College.

22 (B) If applicable, the personnel transferred from  
23 Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute to East Arkansas Community College shall  
24 comply with Acts 201, No. 94, § 1, as amended by this act; and

25 (4) All cash fund balances of Crowley's Ridge Technical  
26 Institute transferred to East Arkansas Community College shall be used for  
27 the operation, support, and improvement of occupational, vocational,  
28 technical, and workforce development programs of East Arkansas Community  
29 College.

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31 6-51-1105. Funding from the Work Force 2000 Development Fund.

32 Beginning on the effective date of a merger under § 6-51-1101(a)(2),  
33 funding from the Work Force 2000 Development Fund, which would have been  
34 provided to Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute, shall be provided to East  
35 Arkansas Community College to fund workforce development, vocational,  
36 occupational, and training programs offered by East Arkansas Community

1 College.

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3 6-51-1106. Funding from the Federal Adult Basic Education Fund.  
4 Beginning on the effective date of a merger under § 6-51-1101(a)(2),  
5 funding from the Federal Adult Basic Education Fund, which would have been  
6 provided to Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute, shall be provided to East  
7 Arkansas Community College.

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9 SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY.

10 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

11 (1) Significant changes in the day-to-day operations of  
12 Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute before the effective date of a merger of  
13 Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute to East Arkansas Community College under  
14 § 6-51-1101 may impede the ability of Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute to  
15 merge seamlessly into East Arkansas Community College; and

16 (2) Additional guidance and restrictions are necessary to assure  
17 a smooth transition to the new institutional structure of East Arkansas  
18 Community College provided for by this act.

19 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, upon the  
20 vote of the Board of Directors of Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute to  
21 merge with East Arkansas Community College under § 6-51-1101(a)(1)(A) and  
22 before the effective date of a merger under § 6-51-1101(a)(2), Crowley's  
23 Ridge Technical Institute shall not:

24 (1) Change its policies or procedures;

25 (2) Terminate an employee of Crowley's Ridge Technical  
26 Institute;

27 (3) Transfer an employee of Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute  
28 to a different position;

29 (4) Hire a new employee of Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute;  
30 or

31 (5) Destroy, mutilate, or alter documents, records, or other  
32 property maintained by Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute or its employees  
33 unless the destruction, mutilation, or alteration is made in the normal  
34 course of business and the nature of and reason for the destruction,  
35 mutilation, or alteration are recorded.

36 (c) Upon the approval of a merger of Crowley's Ridge Technical

Institute and East Arkansas Community College under § 6-51-1101(a)(1)(C) and before the effective date of a merger under § 6-51-1101(a)(2), the Board of Directors of East Arkansas Community College shall designate an individual to assume administration of Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute.

(d) If Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute determines that performance of one (1) or more of the actions prohibited in subsection (b) of this section are necessary to appropriately perform the duties or functions of Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute:

(1) The Technical Institute Director or the Interim Technical Institute Director of Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute may request that the designee under subsection (c) of this section permit performance of the action; and

(2) The designee under subsection (c) may grant or deny permission to perform the requested action.

(e) Upon the approval of a merger of Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute and East Arkansas Community College under § 6-51-1101(a)(1)(C) and before the effective date of a merger under § 6-51-1101(a)(2), Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute shall provide to the designee under subsection (c) of this section any document, record, testimony, explanation, or other information maintained by Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute or its employees upon the request of the designee.

SECTION 3. Acts 2017, No. 94, § 1, is amended to read as follows:

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES. There is hereby established for the Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item	Class	No.	Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual
						Salary Rate Fiscal Year
						2017-2018
<del>(1)</del>	<del>N150N</del>	<del>1</del>	<del></del>	<del>TECHNICAL INSTITUTE DIRECTOR</del>	<del>1</del>	<del>GRADE N902</del>
<del>(2)</del>	<del>E009C</del>	<del>3</del>	<del></del>	<del>TECHNICAL INSTITUTE ASST DIRECTOR</del>	<del>3</del>	<del>GRADE C125</del>
(1)		1		VICE-PRESIDENT FOR CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION	1	GRADE GS11
<del>(3)</del> (2)	<del>E018C</del>	<del>42</del>	<del></del>	<del>SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL FACULTY</del>	<del>42</del>	<del>GRADE C122</del>
<del>(4)</del> (3)	<del>E022C</del>	<del>1</del>	<del></del>	<del>EDUCATION &amp; INSTRUCTION MANAGER</del>	<del>1</del>	<del>GRADE C121</del>

1	<del>(5)</del> (4)	E027C	CAREER & TECHNICAL FACULTY	<del>3020</del>	GRADE C120
2	<del>(6)</del> (5)	G207C	FINANCIAL AID ANALYST	1	GRADE C115
3	<del>(7)</del> (6)	S033C	MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE C115
4	<del>(8)</del> (7)	A090C	PAYROLL SERVICES SPECIALIST	1	GRADE C115
5	<del>(9)</del> (8)	A098C	FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	2	GRADE C112
6	<del>(10)</del> (9)	S050C	MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST	1	GRADE C112
7	<del>(11)</del> (10)	A097C	PAYROLL TECHNICIAN	1	GRADE C112
8	<del>(12)</del> (11)	C073C	ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST II	5	GRADE C109
9	<del>(13)</del> (12)	S065C	MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT	<u>3</u>	GRADE C108
10			MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	<u>5439</u>	

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*SECTION 4. DO NOT CODIFY. (a)(1) Within two hundred ten (210) days of the effective date of a merger under § 6-51-1101(a)(2), active employees of Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute on the effective date of a merger under § 6-51-1101(a)(2) who become employees of East Arkansas Community College may make a one-time choice between:*

*(A)(i) The health insurance plan adopted by the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board for state employees; or*

*(ii) The East Arkansas Community College health insurance plan; and*

*(B)(i) Remaining in his or her same retirement system under the same conditions then provided by law or as may later be provided by law; or*

*(ii) The East Arkansas Community College retirement system plan.*

*(b) The Board of Directors of East Arkansas Community College shall promulgate rules establishing the procedure for employees to exercise benefit options under subsection (a) of this section.*

*SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-53-401 is amended to read as follows:  
6-53-401. Coordination with institutional boards of trustees.*

*A merger or consolidation of a state-supported postsecondary vocational-technical institution with an existing community college, with a branch campus of a four-year institution, or with a four-year institution, is subject to the approval of the: ~~board of trustees of the institution, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and an accrediting agency~~*

1 ~~recognized by the federal Department of Education,~~

2 (1) Board of directors or board of trustees of the existing  
3 community college or four-year institution; and

4 (2) Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

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6 SECTION 6. DO NOT CODIFY. EFFECTIVE DATE. (a) Section 3 of this act  
7 shall:

8 (1) Become effective on the effective date of a merger under §  
9 6-51-1101(a)(2); and

10 (2) Expire on June 30, 2018.

11 (b) Section 3 of this act shall not become effective if the effective  
12 date under subdivision (a)(1) of this section occurs after June 30, 2018.

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14 SECTION 7. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
15 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that under current law the Board of  
16 Directors of Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute may choose to merge with  
17 East Arkansas Community College; that if the board chooses to pursue such a  
18 merger, it is critically important to the students and faculty of both  
19 institutions that the merger occur in an organized and efficient manner; and  
20 that this act is immediately necessary to allow a smooth transition in the  
21 event of a merger of Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute and East Arkansas  
22 Community College. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this  
23 act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace,  
24 health, and safety shall become effective on:

25 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

26 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
27 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the  
28 bill; or

29 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
30 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

31  
32 /s/Hollowell