

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4
5 By: Senator J. English
6

As Engrossed: S3/16/17
A Bill

SENATE BILL 441

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE A LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE TO REVIEW
9 TECHNICAL AND WORKFORCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND
10 RECOMMEND WAYS TO ALIGN TECHNICAL AND WORKFORCE
11 EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO PRODUCE AN EFFICIENT,
12 TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED TECHNICAL AND WORKFORCE
13 EDUCATION SYSTEM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

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17 TO CREATE A LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE TO
18 REVIEW TECHNICAL AND WORKFORCE EDUCATION
19 PROGRAMS AND RECOMMEND WAYS TO ALIGN THE
20 PROGRAMS TO PRODUCE AN EFFICIENT,
21 TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED TECHNICAL AND
22 WORKFORCE EDUCATION SYSTEM.
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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27 SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative Task Force
28 on Workforce Education Excellence – Creation – Membership – Duties.

29 (a) There is created the Legislative Task Force on Workforce Education
30 Excellence.

31 (b) The task force shall consist of sixteen (16) members as follows:

32 (1) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Education;

33 (2) The Chair of the House Committee on Education;

34 (3) One (1) member of the Senate from the First Congressional
35 District, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

36 (4) One (1) member of the House of Representatives from the



1 First Congressional District, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
2 Representatives;

3 (5) One (1) member of the Senate from the Second Congressional
4 District, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

5 (6) One (1) member of the House of Representatives from the
6 Second Congressional District, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
7 Representatives;

8 (7) One (1) member of the Senate from the Third Congressional
9 District, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

10 (8) One (1) member of the House of Representatives from the
11 Third Congressional District, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
12 Representatives;

13 (9) One (1) member of the Senate from the Fourth Congressional
14 District, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

15 (10) One (1) member of the House of Representatives from the
16 Fourth Congressional District, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
17 Representatives; and

18 (11) Six (6) members recommended by the Arkansas State Chamber
19 of Commerce who represent industry in Arkansas.

20 (c)(1)(A) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Education shall call
21 the first meeting of the task force within sixty (60) days of the effective
22 date of this act and shall serve as the chair of the task force.

23 (B) The Chair of the House Committee on Education shall
24 serve as the vice-chair of the task force.

25 (2) At the first meeting of task force, the members of the task
26 force shall elect from its membership other officers as needed for the
27 transaction of business.

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

30 (B) Meetings of the task force shall be held at least one
31 (1) time every three (3) months but may occur more often at the call of the
32 chair.

33 (4) The task force shall establish rules and procedures for
34 conducting business.

35 (5) If a vacancy occurs on the task force, the vacancy shall be
36 filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

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

4 (B) Non-legislative members of the task force shall serve
5 without compensation but may receive reimbursement under § 25-16-902.

6 (7)(A) A majority of the members of the task force shall
7 constitute a quorum for transacting business.

8 (B) No action may be taken by the task force except by a
9 majority vote at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

10 (8) The task force may expend funds and resources in carrying
11 out its purpose and responsibilities that are appropriated or funded by the
12 General Assembly or a third party.

13 (9) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff for
14 the task force.

15 (d)(1) The task force shall review and research ways to improve career
16 and technical education programs and workforce development programs and to
17 align career and technical education programs and workforce development
18 programs to achieve a positive economic impact on the State of Arkansas.

19 (2) The task force shall:

20 (A) Review the current structure, fiscal performance,
21 compliance, and outcomes of the career and technical education programs and
22 workforce development programs offered through:

23 (i) High schools;

24 (ii) Secondary vocational area centers, as defined
25 in § 6-20-2303;

26 (iii) Two-year institutions of higher education;

27 (iv) Four-year institutions of higher education;

28 (v) The Department of Career Education;

29 (vi) The Department of Workforce Services;

30 (vii) Apprenticeship schools, offices, and programs,
31 including at the Department of Labor, Department of Career Education,
32 Department of Workforce Services, Department of Human Services, and other
33 apprenticeship schools receiving public funds; and

34 (viii) Other agencies or organizations that offer
35 career and technical education programs or workforce development programs;

36 (B) Review the workforce needs of the state now and in the

1 future;

2 (C) Recommend strategies to meet the workforce needs of
3 the state;

4 (D) Research and recommend ways to improve the delivery of
5 career and technical education programs and workforce development programs;

6 (E) Research and recommend strategies to align the career
7 and technical education programs and workforce development programs;

8 (F) Research and recommend strategies that:

9 (i) Reduce skill shortages;

10 (ii) Enhance the state's economic growth;

11 (iii) Meet industry demands;

12 (iv) Improve fiscal and operational consistency and
13 efficiency as it relates to career and technical education among statewide
14 high schools, secondary vocational area centers, apprenticeship programs, and
15 two-year state-supported institutions of higher education;

16 (v) Create alignment among educational and career
17 pathways, concurrent credit opportunities, apprenticeship credits for
18 relevant secondary and college courses, and work-based learning opportunities
19 for students transitioning among high schools, secondary vocational area
20 centers, apprenticeship programs, two-year state-supported institutions of
21 higher education, and employment;

22 (vi) Identify and overcome barriers to improve
23 career and technical education programs and workforce development programs
24 and to align career and technical education programs and workforce
25 development programs to achieve a positive economic impact on the State of
26 Arkansas, including without limitation:

27 (a) Any limitations on work-based learning
28 opportunities for high school and college students;

29 (b) A lack of career-centric, outcome-based
30 incentives at all levels of education;

31 (c) The gap between education requirements and
32 employer and labor market needs; and

33 (d) The lack of strategic alignment and
34 collaboration among the similarly motivated workforce and education programs
35 of agencies, school districts, and institutions of higher education; and

36 (vii) Provide access to high-quality, globally

1 competitive career and technical education programs and workforce development
2 programs;

3 (G) Review best practices among other states;

4 (H) Review regional, prioritized occupations and skills
5 needed by using the priorities and regions defined by each local workforce
6 development board under the Arkansas Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
7 Act, § 15-4-3701 et seq., as a starting point, which shall drive program and
8 funding priorities for the entities, pathways, curricula, training, and
9 credit opportunities;

10 (I) Review methods to create and implement a statewide
11 plan for promotion and recruitment of talent to opportunities in the highest
12 priority occupations;

13 (J) Review ways to reduce duplication of effort and
14 achieve alignment and collaboration in improving career and technical
15 education programs and workforce development programs and aligning career and
16 technical education programs and workforce development programs to achieve a
17 positive economic impact on the State of Arkansas;

18 (K) Engage the following:

19 (i) Local workforce development committees under the
20 Arkansas Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, § 15-4-3701 et seq.;

21 (ii) Arkansas Economic Development Commission;

22 (iii) Department of Workforce Services;

23 (iv) Department of Higher Education;

24 (v) Department of Education;

25 (vi) Department of Career Education;

26 (vii) Administrators of two-year state-supported
27 institutions of higher education;

28 (viii) Arkansas Community Colleges;

29 (ix) Association of Arkansas Development
30 Organizations;

31 (x) Arkansas Association of Education
32 Administrators;

33 (xi) Secondary vocational area center directors; and

34 (xii) Public school district superintendents; and

35 (L) Review methods to create and adopt an inter-agency
36 data and information sharing plan that includes accounting for necessary

1 information technology infrastructure that records and makes available to all
2 agencies the funding provided and obligated, whether federal or state funds,
3 to support education, training, workforce development, and related equipment
4 and infrastructure.

5 (e)(1) On or before February 1, 2018, the task force shall file with
6 the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro
7 Tempore of the Senate, and the chairs of the House Committee on Education and
8 the Senate Committee on Education a written preliminary report of the
9 activities, findings, and recommendations of the task force.

10 (2)(A) On or before September 1, 2018, the task force shall file
11 with the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President
12 Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the chairs of the House Committee on Education
13 and the Senate Committee on Education a written, final report of the
14 activities, findings, and recommendations of the task force.

15 (B) The task force may file an updated final report on or
16 before July 1, 2019.

17 (f) The task force expires on July 1, 2019.

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19 /s/J. English
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