

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

As Engrossed: S3/16/17 H3/27/17

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 441

5 By: Senator J. English  
6 By: Representative Cozart  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE A LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE TO REVIEW  
10 TECHNICAL AND WORKFORCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND  
11 RECOMMEND WAYS TO ALIGN TECHNICAL AND WORKFORCE  
12 EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO PRODUCE AN EFFICIENT,  
13 TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED TECHNICAL AND WORKFORCE  
14 EDUCATION SYSTEM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
15  
16

## Subtitle

18 TO CREATE A LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE TO  
19 REVIEW TECHNICAL AND WORKFORCE EDUCATION  
20 PROGRAMS AND RECOMMEND WAYS TO ALIGN THE  
21 PROGRAMS TO PRODUCE AN EFFICIENT,  
22 TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED TECHNICAL AND  
23 WORKFORCE EDUCATION SYSTEM.  
24  
25

26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
27

28 SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative Task Force  
29 on Workforce Education Excellence – Creation – Membership – Duties.

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

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

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

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

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



1 (4) One (1) member of the House of Representatives from the  
2 First Congressional District, appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
3 Representatives;

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 (11)(A) Six (6) members who represent industry in Arkansas to be  
20 appointed as follows:

21 (i) Three (3) members to be appointed by the  
22 President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and

23 (ii) Three (3) members to be appointed by the  
24 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

25 (B) The members appointed under subdivision (11)(A) of  
26 this section shall be chosen from a list of names submitted by the Arkansas  
27 State Chamber of Commerce that shall include without limitation:

28 (i) Industry executives;

29 (ii) Human resources personnel;

30 (iii) Licensed professionals; and

31 (iv) Other representatives of industry.

32 (c)(1) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Education and the Chair of  
33 the House Committee on Education shall call the first meeting of the task  
34 force within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this act and shall  
35 serve as cochairs of the task force.

36 (2) At the first meeting of task force, the members of the task

1 force shall elect from its membership other officers as needed for the  
2 transaction of business.

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

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

8 (4) The task force shall establish rules and procedures for  
9 conducting business.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (2) The task force shall:

31 (A) Review the current structure, fiscal performance,  
32 compliance, and outcomes of the career and technical education programs and  
33 workforce development programs offered through:

34 (i) High schools;

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

- 1                   (iii) Two-year institutions of higher education;  
2                   (iv) Four-year institutions of higher education;  
3                   (v) The Department of Career Education;  
4                   (vi) The Department of Workforce Services;  
5                   (vii) Apprenticeship schools, offices, and programs,  
6 including at the Department of Labor, Department of Career Education,  
7 Department of Workforce Services, Department of Human Services, and other  
8 apprenticeship schools receiving public funds; and  
9                   (viii) Other agencies or organizations that offer  
10 career and technical education programs or workforce development programs;  
11                   (B) Review the workforce needs of the state now and in the  
12 future;  
13                   (C) Recommend strategies to meet the workforce needs of  
14 the state;  
15                   (D) Research and recommend ways to improve the delivery of  
16 career and technical education programs and workforce development programs;  
17                   (E) Research and recommend strategies to align the career  
18 and technical education programs and workforce development programs;  
19                   (F) Research and recommend strategies that:  
20                   (i) Reduce skill shortages;  
21                   (ii) Enhance the state's economic growth;  
22                   (iii) Meet industry demands;  
23                   (iv) Improve fiscal and operational consistency and  
24 efficiency as it relates to career and technical education among statewide  
25 high schools, secondary vocational area centers, apprenticeship programs, and  
26 two-year state-supported institutions of higher education;  
27                   (v) Create alignment among educational and career  
28 pathways, concurrent credit opportunities, apprenticeship credits for  
29 relevant secondary and college courses, and work-based learning opportunities  
30 for students transitioning among high schools, secondary vocational area  
31 centers, apprenticeship programs, two-year state-supported institutions of  
32 higher education, and employment;  
33                   (vi) Identify and overcome barriers to improve  
34 career and technical education programs and workforce development programs  
35 and to align career and technical education programs and workforce  
36 development programs to achieve a positive economic impact on the State of

1 Arkansas, including without limitation:

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

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

6 (c) The gap between education requirements and  
7 employer and labor market needs; and

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

11 (vii) Provide access to high-quality, globally  
12 competitive career and technical education programs and workforce development  
13 programs;

14 (G) Review best practices among other states;

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

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

24 (J) Review ways to reduce duplication of effort and  
25 achieve alignment and collaboration in improving career and technical  
26 education programs and workforce development programs and aligning career and  
27 technical education programs and workforce development programs to achieve a  
28 positive economic impact on the State of Arkansas;

29 (K) Engage the following:

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

32 (ii) Arkansas Economic Development Commission;

33 (iii) Department of Workforce Services;

34 (iv) Department of Higher Education;

35 (v) Department of Education;

36 (vi) Department of Career Education;

1 (vii) Administrators of two-year state-supported  
2 institutions of higher education;

3 (viii) Arkansas Community Colleges;

4 (ix) Association of Arkansas Development  
5 Organizations;

6 (x) Arkansas Association of Education  
7 Administrators;

8 (xi) Secondary vocational area center directors; and

9 (xii) Public school district superintendents; and

10 (L) Review methods to create and adopt an inter-agency  
11 data and information sharing plan that includes accounting for necessary  
12 information technology infrastructure that records and makes available to all  
13 agencies the funding provided and obligated, whether federal or state funds,  
14 to support education, training, workforce development, and related equipment  
15 and infrastructure.

16 (e)(1) On or before February 1, 2018, the task force shall file with  
17 the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro  
18 Tempore of the Senate, and the chairs of the House Committee on Education and  
19 the Senate Committee on Education a written preliminary report of the  
20 activities, findings, and recommendations of the task force.

21 (2)(A) On or before September 1, 2018, the task force shall file  
22 with the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President  
23 Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the chairs of the House Committee on Education  
24 and the Senate Committee on Education a written, final report of the  
25 activities, findings, and recommendations of the task force.

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

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

29  
30 /s/J. English  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36