1	State of Arkansas		
2	93rd General Assembly	A Bill	
3	Regular Session, 2021		HOUSE BILL 1700
4			
5	By: Representative Bentley		
6	By: Senator G. Stubblefield		
7			
8		For An Act To Be Entitled	
9	AN ACT TO	IMPROVE STUDENT OUTCOMES BY PROVIDING	
10	STUDENTS,	PARENTS, AND GUIDANCE COUNSELORS WITH	
11	RELIABLE	INFORMATION REGARDING THE COST OF COLLE	EGE
12	AND JOB O	PPORTUNITIES IN ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER	R
13	PURPOSES.		
14			
15			
16		Subtitle	
17	TO I	IMPROVE STUDENT OUTCOMES BY PROVIDING	
18	STUI	DENTS, PARENTS, AND GUIDANCE	
19	COUN	NSELORS WITH RELIABLE INFORMATION	
20	REGA	ARDING THE COST OF COLLEGE AND JOB	
21	OPPO	ORTUNITIES IN ARKANSAS.	
22			
23			
24	BE IT ENACTED BY THE	GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANS	SAS:
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26	SECTION 1. DO	NOT CODIFY. <u>Legislative findings.</u>	
27		embly finds that:	
28		ndamental goal of Arkansas's secondary	-
29		ot only to educate and enrich young peo	-
30		ablish a solid foundation for good-pays	-
31		cost of college continues to increase f	
32		e country, and student debt has become	the second-
33		t vehicle in the United States;	
34		General Assembly is proud of its instit	_
35		s they can compete with any in the nati	ion, but their
36	<u>cost to enrollees mus</u>	t be as transparent as possible;	



1	(4) Middle and high school students deserve as much access as
2	possible to information regarding the costs of college and future job
3	opportunities in the state;
4	(5) Arkansas employers need workers with varied skills and
5	education levels, and future Arkansas workers should have a clear idea of
6	what steps are required to pursue the career of their choice; and
7	(6) The constantly changing nature of educational opportunities
8	and the job market requires up-to-date information for anyone seeking a job
9	or an education in Arkansas to properly navigate the marketplace.
10	
11	SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 60, is amended to add an
12	additional subchapter to read as follows:
13	<u>Subchapter 12 — Information Regarding the Cost of College and Job</u>
14	<u>Opportunities</u>
15	
16	<u>6-60-1201. Definitions.</u>
17	As used in this subchapter:
18	(1) "College" means a state-supported four-year institution of
19	higher education in the Arkansas; and
20	(2) "Vocational school" means any type of vocational, technical,
21	or trade school that prepares individuals to engage in the workforce as a
22	technician or participate in a trade or craft.
23	
24	6-60-1202. Information collected by Department of Education.
25	The Department of Education shall collect and compile the following
26	information without limitation on an annual basis:
27	(1) The most in-demand jobs in the state, including without
28	limitation the starting salaries and education levels required for those
29	jobs;
30	(2) The average cost for all colleges and vocational schools in
31	<u>the state;</u>
32	(3) The average monthly student loan payment for individuals who
33	attend or who have graduated from all colleges and vocational schools in the
34	state;
35	(4) The average three-year student loan default rate for all
36	colleges and vocational schools in the state;

1	(5) The average total student loan debt for graduates of in-		
2	state colleges for four-year degrees and graduate programs;		
3	(6) The average graduation rate for all colleges and vocational		
4	schools in the state;		
5	(7) The completion rates for:		
6	(A) Apprenticeship programs;		
7	(B) High school credential programs;		
8	(C) Career and technical education programs; and		
9	(D) Military first-term enlistments;		
10	(8) The share of college graduates working in an occupation that		
11	does not require a college degree for each major;		
12	(9) The average starting salary for individuals graduating from		
13	<u>a college;</u>		
14	(10) The average starting salary for individuals who have		
15	<pre>completed:</pre>		
16	(A) An apprenticeship program;		
17	(B) A high school credential program; or		
18	(C) A career and technical education program;		
19	(11) The base pay for newly enlisted service members; and		
20	(12) The average starting salary for individuals graduating from		
21	a vocational school in the state.		
22			
23	6-60-1203. Information published to public by Department of Education.		
24	(a) The Department of Education shall establish and make available to		
25	the public an online tool called the "Student Horizon Database" that contains		
26	a searchable database that compares the following among colleges and		
27	vocational schools based on users' selections:		
28	(1) Average annual cost;		
29	(2) Graduation rate;		
30	(3) Salary after attending;		
31	(4) Highest paying salaries for top five (5) majors;		
32	(5) Full-time enrollment amounts;		
33	(6) Socioeconomic diversity;		
34	(7) Race and ethnicity information;		
35	(8) Family income brackets;		
36	(9) Percentage of students paying down their student loan debts;		

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1	(10) Typical total student loan debt after graduation;	
2	(11) Students receiving federal student loans;	
3	(12) Typical monthly loan payment;	
4	(13) Students who return after their first year; and	
5	(14) Graduation, withdrawal, transfer, and current enrollment	
6	status for students eight (8) years after attending.	
7	(b)(1) The database established under subsection (a) of this section	
8	shall provide individuals with the ability to select a specific major or	
9	program at a specific college or vocational school.	
10	(2) Upon selecting a specific major or program at a specific	
11	college or vocational school while using the database, the following overview	
12	shall be provided, to be filled in with information required under subsection	
13	(a) of this section as it applies to the specific major or program at the	
14	specific college or vocational school that the individual selected:	
15	"For every 100 students starting in {insert major} at this	
16	$\{$ insert university, college, career and technical education program, or	
17	certificate program}, {insert number} will graduate in 6 years; of those,	
18	{insert number} will get a job with an average starting salary of {insert	
19	salary} within 6 months of graduation. The average debt for the graduates	
20	will be {insert debt}. The total cost on average for this degree is {insert	
21	total amount paid}. Of the {insert number} who don't graduate, they will	
22	accumulate an average debt of {insert debt}."	
23		
24	6-60-1204. Information published and distributed to middle and high	
25	school students by Department of Education.	
26	The Department of Education shall publish and distribute to middle and	
27	high school students in the State of Arkansas on an annual basis a	
28	comparison, using the information collected under § 6-60-1202, that contains	
29	the following information without limitation:	
30	(1) The top fifty (50) majors for four-year degrees by salaries	
31	after graduating;	
32	(2) The top twenty (20) career and technical education and	
33	certificate programs by salaries after graduating or receiving a certificate	
34	of completion;	
35	(3) The top twenty-five (25) most in-demand jobs in the state	
36	and their corresponding starting salaries and education requirements; and	

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1	(4) The base pay and benefits for enlistment in the military,
2	which shall include without limitation the necessary Armed Services
3	Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) score by military branch and the average
4	signing bonus.
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6	<u>6-60-1205. Rules.</u>
7	The Department of Education shall promulgate rules to implement this
8	subchapter.
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10	6-60-1206. Effective date.
11	The requirements of this subchapter shall be effective no later than
12	January 1, 2022.
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14	SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. <u>Rules.</u>
15	(a) When adopting the initial rules required under this act, the
16	Department of Education shall file the final rules with the Secretary of
17	State for adoption under § 25-15-204(f):
18	(1) On or before January 1, 2022; or
19	(2) If approval under § 10-3-309 has not occurred by January 1,
20	2022, as soon as practicable after approval under § 10-3-309.
21	(b) The department shall file the proposed rules with the Legislative
22	Council under § 10-3-309(c) sufficiently in advance of January 1, 2022, so
23	that the Legislative Council may consider the rules for approval before
24	January 1, 2022.
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