1	State of Arkansas	As Engrossed: H3/18/21	
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	IG
10	STUDENTS,	PARENTS, AND GUIDANCE COUNSELORS WIT	'H
11	RELIABLE	INFORMATION REGARDING THE COST OF COL	LEGE
12	AND JOB O	PPPORTUNITIES IN ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTH	IER
13	PURPOSES.		
14			
15			
16		Subtitle	
17	TO 1	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 ARKA	ANSAS:
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26	SECTION 1. DO	NOT CODIFY. <u>Legislative findings.</u>	
27	The General Ass	embly finds that:	
28	<u>(1) A fu</u>	ndamental goal of Arkansas's secondar	y and higher
29	education system is n	ot only to educate and enrich young p	people, but also to
30	help young people est	ablish a solid foundation for good-pa	nying work;
31	<u>(2)</u> The	cost of college continues to increase	e for young
32	individuals across th	e country, and student debt has becom	ne the second-
33	<u>largest financial deb</u>	t vehicle in the United States;	
34	<u>(3) The</u>	General Assembly is proud of its inst	itutions of higher
35	education and believe	s they can compete with any in the na	ation, but their
36	cost to enrollees mus	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	Subchapter 12 - Information Regarding the Cost of College and Job
14	<u>Opportunities</u>
15	
16	6-60-1201. Definitions.
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	(a) The Department of Education shall collect and compile the
26	following information without limitation on an annual basis:
27	(1) The most in-demand jobs in the state, including without
28	limitation the approximate starting salaries and education levels required
29	<pre>for those jobs;</pre>
30	(2) The approximate average cost for all colleges and vocational
31	schools in the state;
32	(3) The average monthly federal student loan payment for
33	individuals who attend or who have graduated from all colleges and vocational
34	schools in the state;
35	(4) The average three-year federal student loan default rate for
36	all colleges and vocational schools in the state;

1	(5) The average total federal student loan debt for graduates of
2	in-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; and
8	(C) Career and technical education programs;
9	(8) The share of college graduates working in an occupation that
10	does not require a college degree for each major;
11	(9) The approximate average starting salary for individuals
12	graduating from a college;
13	(10) The approximate average starting salary for individuals who
14	<pre>have completed:</pre>
15	(A) An apprenticeship program;
16	(B) A high school credential program; or
17	(C) A career and technical education program; and
18	(11) The approximate average starting salary for individuals
19	graduating from a vocational school in the state.
20	(b) The department shall work with the following entities without
21	limitation to collect and compile the information required under subsection
22	(a) of this section:
23	(1) The Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce;
24	(2) The Division of Career and Technical Education; and
25	(3) The Division of Higher Education.
26	(c) The information collected and compiled under subsection (a) of
27	this section may be collected in conjunction with information collected for
28	other reports that require the same information.
29	6-60-1203. Information published to public by Department of Education.
30	(a) The Department of Education shall establish and make available to
31	the public an online tool called the "Student Horizon Database" that contains
32	a searchable database that compares the following among colleges and
33	vocational schools based on users' selections:
34	(1) Approximate average annual cost;
35	(2) Graduation rate;
36	(3) Salary after attending;

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

1	(2) The top twenty (20) career and technical education and		
2	certificate programs by salaries after graduating or receiving a certificate		
3	of completion; and		
4	(3) The top twenty-five (25) most in-demand jobs in the state		
5	and their corresponding starting salaries and education requirements.		
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7	6-60-1205. Rules.		
8	The Department of Education shall promulgate rules to implement this		
9	subchapter.		
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11	6-60-1206. Effective date.		
12	The requirements of this subchapter shall be effective no later than		
13	<u>January 1, 2022.</u>		
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15	SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Rules.		
16	(a) When adopting the initial rules required under this act, the		
17	Department of Education shall file the final rules with the Secretary of		
18	State for adoption under § 25-15-204(f):		
19	(1) On or before January 1, 2022; or		
20	(2) If approval under § 10-3-309 has not occurred by January 1,		
21	2022, as soon as practicable after approval under § 10-3-309.		
22	(b) The department shall file the proposed rules with the Legislative		
23	Council under § 10-3-309(c) sufficiently in advance of January 1, 2022, so		
24	that the Legislative Council may consider the rules for approval before		
25	January 1, 2022.		
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28 29	/s/Bentley		
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