

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021

HCR 1020

4  
5 By: Representative M. Gray

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7 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

8 TO ENCOURAGE COLLABORATION AMONG THE DIVISION OF  
9 HIGHER EDUCATION, THE HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING  
10 BOARD, AND STATE-SUPPORTED TWO-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR  
11 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO STUDY THE NEED  
12 FOR NEW POLICIES AND REVIEW CURRENT POLICIES RELATED  
13 TO EXPANDING ACCESS TO APPLIED BACCALAUREATE AND  
14 WORKFORCE DEGREES IN HIGH-DEMAND CAREER FIELDS  
15 THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

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18 **Subtitle**

19 TO ENCOURAGE COLLABORATION AMONG THE  
20 RELEVANT ENTITIES TO STUDY AND REVIEW  
21 POLICIES RELATED TO EXPANDING ACCESS TO  
22 APPLIED BACCALAUREATE AND WORKFORCE  
23 DEGREES IN HIGH-DEMAND CAREER FIELDS  
24 THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

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26 WHEREAS, calls for increasing college completion and degree production  
27 both at the state and federal levels have led many states to explore  
28 increasing access to applied baccalaureate and workforce degrees in high-  
29 demand career fields in order to provide a pathway for more students to earn  
30 a four-year degree; and

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32 WHEREAS, Arkansas is well-positioned to explore increasing access to  
33 baccalaureate and workforce degrees targeted to high-demand career fields,  
34 such as the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, while also increasing  
35 collaboration among two-year and four-year institutions of higher education  
36 through establishing a formal partnership among colleges and universities;



1 and

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3 WHEREAS, the Division of Higher Education and the Higher Education  
4 Coordinating Board are responsible for coordinating the state's system of  
5 higher education, including identifying the need for new degree programs and  
6 reviewing the continuing viability of existing degree programs; and

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8 WHEREAS, external accrediting bodies are responsible for reviewing  
9 academic and organizational structures of colleges and universities, as well  
10 as for reviewing the quality and integrity of individual degree programs; and

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12 WHEREAS, the Higher Education Coordinating Board is specifically  
13 authorized under Arkansas Code § 6-61-204 to work with the presidents and  
14 chancellors of this state's two-year and four-year institutions of higher  
15 education to "establish advisory committees and councils as may be deemed  
16 necessary for the effective development and coordination of higher education  
17 in this state", including on subjects such as institutional accountability  
18 and workforce development; and

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20 WHEREAS, the Higher Education Coordinating Board is further charged  
21 under Arkansas Code § 6-61-208 with the responsibility to evaluate and  
22 approve proposals for new units of instruction to determine, based upon  
23 established policies, and consistent with Arkansas Code § 6-61-207, whether  
24 new units of instruction are of appropriate rigor and sufficiently in demand,

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26 NOW THEREFORE,

27 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL  
28 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

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30 THAT, consistent with Arkansas law and rules and policies of the  
31 Division of Higher Education and the Higher Education Coordinating Board, the  
32 Arkansas General Assembly encourage the Division of Higher Education to study  
33 the need for new policies and review current policies related to expanding  
34 applied baccalaureate and workforce degrees in high-demand career fields in  
35 collaboration with the state's two-year and four-year college and university  
36 presidents and chancellors, including direct involvement from both system-

1 affiliated and independent institutions that are representative of this  
2 state's geography.

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