

91<sup>st</sup> General Assembly  
2017 Regular Session

Summary of Education Acts

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K-12 Acts



## ACT 173 – AN ACT TO ALLOW A STUDENT WHO ATTENDS A PRIVATE SCHOOL OR A HOME SCHOOL TO ENROLL IN AN ACADEMIC COURSE WITH THE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Provides that a public school district or an open-enrollment public charter school may adopt a policy to allow a student who attends a private school or home school to enroll in an academic course at a public school or an open-enrollment public charter school
- The public school district or open-enrollment public charter school may set admissions criteria, allow a student to enroll in one or more courses, and limit enrollment to certain courses or grade levels



## ACT 246 — AN ACT TO AMEND THE MINIMUM TEACHER COMPENSATION SCHEDULE

- Increases the amounts in the minimum teacher compensation schedule over a period of two school years
- Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, the minimum amounts are increased by \$400
- Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, the minimum amounts are increased another \$400



## ACT 294 — AN ACT CONCERNING THE LICENSURE OF TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS AND LICENSURE EXCEPTIONS; TO AUTHORIZE A TIERED LICENSURE SYSTEM

- Authorizes the State Board of Education to establish a tiered system of teacher licensure and allows teacher compensation to be based on licensure levels
- Establishes exceptions to the licensure requirement such as an emergency teaching permit, a teacher to teach in a subject area related to his or licensed content area, a technical permit issued in conjunction with the Department of Career Education, charter school or school district waivers, or long-term substitutes



## ACT 295 — AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING THE TEACHER EXCELLENCE AND SUPPORT SYSTEM; AND TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATION

- Revises the Teacher Excellence and Support System (TESS)
- Requires schools and school districts to report data collected under TESS for public school accountability purposes
- Allows a school or school district to opt out of TESS and use a locally adopted evaluation system with approval of the State Board of Education.



**ACT 375 — AN ACT TO REGULATE EQUIPMENT  
REQUIRED FOR SCHOOL BUSES; TO REQUIRE  
THAT CERTAIN SCHOOL BUSES BE EQUIPPED  
WITH SEAT BELTS; AND TO ENFORCE THE USE OF  
SEAT BELTS ON SCHOOL BUSES EQUIPPED WITH  
SEAT BELTS**

- Requires a school district to propose at an election to levy an additional annual valorem property tax for the equipping of school buses with passenger restraint systems if a petition signed by at least 10% of the school district's qualified electors is submitted to the school district requesting the passenger restraint systems
- Requires students to use a passenger restraint if the bus on which he or she is riding is equipped with a passenger restraint system



**ACT 416 — AN ACT TO REQUIRE A PERSON  
WHO APPLIES FOR A K-6 TEACHING LICENSE  
OR A SPECIAL EDUCATION K-12 TEACHING  
LICENSE TO SUCCESSFULLY PASS A STAND-  
ALONE READING TEST AND A MULTI-SUBJECT  
TEST AS A CONDITION OF LICENSURE**

- Provides that a person applying for a first-time elementary education K-6 license or a special education K-12 license must take and pass a stand-alone reading assessment concerning the science of reading
- Applies to a person who enters a teacher preparation program or an alternative educator preparation program beginning in the 2017-2018 academic year





## ACT 427 — AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT ANY INCREASES IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING EACH SCHOOL YEAR BE USED FOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

- Provides that additional funding appropriated for professional development above the statutory per student amount shall be used by the Department of Education or a person, firm, corporation, or education service cooperative partnering with the department to develop and administer professional learning communities for public school districts



## ACT 445 — AN ACT TO ESTABLISH ENHANCED TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- Provides enhanced transportation funding for the 2016-2017 school year to public school districts with high transportation costs
- Act had an emergency clause, so it went into effect before the 2016-2017 school year ended
- Directed the Department of Education to distribute the funding immediately upon the effective date of the Act



**ACT 462 — AN ACT TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS  
FROM OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION TO SERVE ON THE PUBLIC CHARTER  
AUTHORIZING PANEL**

- Allows the Commissioner of Education to appoint individuals from outside the Department of Education to the public charter authorizing panel



**ACT 478 — AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE PASSAGE  
OF THE CIVICS PORTION OF THE  
NATURALIZATION TEST USED BY UNITED STATES  
CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES  
BEFORE A STUDENT MAY RECEIVE A HIGH  
SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR A HIGH SCHOOL  
EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA FROM A STATE ENTITY**

- Provides that beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, a student must take a test that is identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and correctly answer at least 60 of the 100 questions in order to received a high school diploma or a high school equivalency diploma



## ACT 509 – AN ACT TO CREATE THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CENTER AUTHORITY ACT

- Allows 4 or more sponsors to enter into an agreement to create a workforce development center authority
- Sponsors are school districts, cities, counties, or vocational-technical schools, which may be a technical institute or a 2-year or 4-year institution of higher education that operates a secondary vocational center
- Sponsors may pledge funds to support the authority, including using their taxing powers to dedicate tax revenue to the authority
- An authority will operate workforce development centers, which are defined as public education facilities used to provide existing workforce or potential new workforce personnel vocational and technical education



## Act 542 – AN ACT TO GRANT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS A RIGHT OF ACCESS TO UNUSED OR UNDERUTILIZED PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

- Requires a school district to make unused or underutilized public school facilities available for lease or purchase for no more than fair market value to charter schools within the school district
- Requires a school district to report annually to the Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation all unused or underutilized public school facilities in the school district
- If a school district fails to identify an unused or underutilized facility in its report, the Division may identify it as unused or underutilized



## Act 561 – AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR HISTORY IN THE CLASSROOM; AND TO EFFECT A SEPARATE HOLIDAY FOR DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

- Repealed official state holiday provision that included Robert E. Lee Day on same day as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January
- Established Robert E. Lee Day as a state memorial day in October
- Requires information on Dr. King to be included in the teaching materials for African-American history
- Requires information on Arkansas and the American Civil War, including information on civilian and military leadership during this period, to be included in the teaching materials for Arkansas history



## ACT 601 — AN ACT TO ALLOW A STUDENT TO CHOOSE IN WHICH GRADE TO TAKE THE ACT UNDER THE VOLUNTARY UNIVERSAL ACT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

- Provides that a public school district shall allow a student to choose to take the ACT under the Voluntary Universal ACT Assessment Program in grade 10 or grade 11





## ACT 666 — AN ACT TO CREATE THE TEACHER'S CLASSROOM INVESTMENT DEDUCTION

- Allows a \$250 tax deduction for a teacher for the purchase of certain classroom materials, such as books, supplies, computer equipment and software, athletic equipment, food for students, and clothing for students
- The act is effective for tax years beginning on after January 1, 2017



## ACT 709 — AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE TEACHER CANDIDATE LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM

- Creates the Teacher Candidate Loan Forgiveness Program, which provides a loan to a junior and senior in college who is majoring in a degree program that will lead to the individual becoming eligible for licensure as a teacher in a high-needs subject area
- Provides that the individual must agree to teach for 5 consecutive years in a school or school district identified as a critical teacher shortage area
- Allows the loan to be forgiven on a pro rata basis for each year the individual teaches in the critical teacher shortage area
- Currently unfunded



## ACT 743 — AN ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING AMOUNTS

- Increased foundation funding for the 2017-2018 school year to \$6,713 per student and for the 2018-2019 school year to \$6,781 per student (previous amounts: \$6,584 per student for 2015-2016 and \$6,646 per student for 2016-2017)
- Increased English learner funding to \$338 per identified English learner student (previous amounts: \$324 per identified student in 2015-2016 and \$331 per identified student in 2016-2017)



## ACT 743

- Left statutory amounts of national school lunch categorical funding flat (HOWEVER, see Act 1044 for an additional \$4.3 million for an NSL Matching Grant Program)
- Left statutory amounts of professional development categorical funding flat (HOWEVER, see Act 427 for additional funds for professional learning communities)
- Provides enhanced transportation funding for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years to public school districts with high transportation costs



## ACT 744 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM DEVELOPED BY THE STATE OF ARKANSAS UNDER THE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

- Provides that the school rating system be a multiple measures approach consistent with the Every Student Succeeds Act, Pub. L. 114-95, that must measure academic achievement on the assessments, student growth on assessments, graduation rates, and English learner progress
- Sets out a list of discretionary measures, one of which must be used in the school rating system



## ACT 745 — AN ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Recodifies the unsafe school choice program, which was previously codified in the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program Act, which was repealed by Act 930
- Provides that a student who is the victim of a violent criminal offense on the grounds of a public school or who is attending a persistently dangerous public school may attend a safe public school within the same school district
- The State Board of Education will promulgate rules to implement this program
- Enactment of an unsafe school choice program fulfills a federal requirement under 20 U.S.C. § 7912 that a state that receives federal education funds establish this program



## ACT 765 — AN ACT PROVIDING FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS EDUCATION FOR EDUCATORS

- Requires a school district to make available professional development on recognizing the warning signs of human trafficking and reporting a suspicion that a child is a victim of human trafficking
- Must be made available every school year



## ACT 801 — AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMIC FACILITIES

- Modifies the membership of the Advisory Committee on Public School Academic Facilities and clarifies that the members of the committee shall be appointed by the Commission for Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation
- Requires the committee to conduct a comprehensive review of academic facilities programs by July 31, 2018





## ACT 801

- The comprehensive review and report of academic facilities programs will include:
  - Viability of the Academic Facilities Partnership Program
  - Efficacy of the wealth index
  - Project ranking and prioritization process of the Academic Facilities Partnership Program
  - Funding cycles
  - Enrollment projections
  - Cost factors
  - Rules of the Academic Facilities Partnership Program
  - School district compliance with statewide computerized maintenance management systems usage



## ACT 862 — AN ACT TO ALLOW A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT AND OPEN-ENROLLMENT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL TO DEVELOP A PLAN FOR THE USE OF AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF INSTRUCTION TO BE USED ON DAYS WHEN SCHOOL IS CANCELLED

- Provides that the Commissioner of Education may grant up to 10 student attendance days for public school districts that use an alternative instruction plan approved by the commissioner on days when the public school district is closed due to emergency circumstances
- The alternative instruction plan may include virtual learning
- The alternative instruction plan must demonstrate how teaching and learning will not be negatively impacted by use of the alternative methods



## ACT 872 — AN ACT TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY IN THE AWARDING OF COURSE CREDIT

- Allows a public school district to submit a plan to the Department of Education for approval to award high school credits based on a demonstration of subject matter competency instead of, or in combination with, completing hours of classroom instruction
- The Department may promulgate rules that include guidelines to assist public school districts in transitioning to awarding credits in this manner



## ACT 894 – AN ACT TO MAKE FOSTER CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR A SCHOLARSHIP IN THE SUCCEED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

- Allows foster children who live in a group home or group facility to be eligible to attend a private school under a Succeed Scholarship, which is a scholarship equal to the foundation funding amount allocated to a public school district per enrolled student
- Caps at 20 the number of foster children eligible for the scholarship
- In order to be eligible, the Department of Human Services must make a finding that attending the private school is in the best interest of the foster child



## ACT 930 – AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL STATE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

- Repeals the former testing and accountability system, the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program Act, § 6-15-401 et seq.
- Creates a new testing and accountability system, the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act, § 6-15-2901 et seq., consistent with the new federal education law, the Every Student Succeeds Act, Pub. L. No. 114-95
- Requires the Department of Education to develop the new accountability system



## Act 930

- Establishes a student-focused learning system designed to personalize learning for students
- Beginning with 2018-2019 school year, each student by the end of grade 8 must have a student success plan developed by school personnel and parents that is reviewed annually
- The student success plan will:
  - Guide student along pathways to graduation
  - Address accelerated learning opportunities or academic deficiencies
  - Include college and career planning components



## ACT 930

- Establishes a tiered system of support the Department will provide to school districts, the details of which will be defined in rules promulgated by the Department
  - Level 1 – General
  - Level 2 – Collaborative
  - Level 3 – Coordinated
  - Level 4 – Directed
  - Level 5 – Intensive
    - Similar to academic distress
    - State Board of Education may assume authority over a school or school district in Level 5 support



## ACT 931 — AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING BONDED DEBT ASSISTANCE

- Provides that savings from refunding school district bonds may be used for any school or school district purpose
- Previously, the savings were required to be used on academic facilities





## ACT 934 — AN ACT TO INCREASE TEACHERS IN HIGH NEEDS SUBJECT AREAS; AND TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TEACHERS WHO AGREE TO TEACH IN THE HIGH NEEDS SUBJECT AREAS

- Creates a program that awards \$5,000 scholarships for juniors and seniors in college who agree to teach at a public school for at least 5 consecutive years in a high-needs subject area
- If a scholarship recipient does not keep the agreement, the scholarships convert into a loan
- Currently unfunded



## ACT 937 — AN ACT TO MODIFY INCENTIVE BONUSES FOR NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS CERTIFICATION

- Modifies the structure for awarding bonuses to teachers for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification
- For those who have begun the certification process or received certification or recertification before January 1, 2018, the current \$5,000 bonuses will be paid for no more than 10 years except in the case of a recertification obtained before January 1, 2018
- If the recertification was obtained before January 1, 2018, the \$5,000 bonuses will be paid for the life of the recertification



## ACT 937

- New structure applies to those who began the certification process and receive certification on or after January 1, 2018
- New bonuses will be paid as follows:
  - \$2,500 for a maximum 5 years for a person employed in a public school that is not a high-poverty school or high-poverty charter school
  - \$5,000 for a maximum 5 years for a person who is employed in a high-poverty school that is not in a high-poverty district
  - \$10,000 for a maximum 10 years for a person who is employed either at a high-poverty school in a high-poverty district or a high-poverty charter school



## ACT 939 — AN ACT TO REQUIRE A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT TO REPORT TO THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF EACH STUDENT THE READING LEVEL OF THE STUDENT

- Provides that at least 2 times per year a public school district shall report to the parent and each teacher of a student in grades K-8 the student's independent reading level



## ACT 951 — AN ACT TO CREATE A LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE TO REVIEW TECHNICAL AND WORKFORCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND RECOMMEND WAYS TO ALIGN TECHNICAL AND WORKFORCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO PRODUCE AN EFFICIENT, TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED TECHNICAL AND WORKFORCE EDUCATION SYSTEM

- Creates the Legislative Task Force on Workforce Education Excellence to review and research ways to improve and align career and technical education programs and workforce development programs
- Task force consists of Education committee chairs, 8 other members of the General Assembly, 6 members recommended by the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce who represent industry



## ACT 988 — AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING SCHOOL CHOICE FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

- Provides that a public school or school district shall allow a foster child to transfer to the public school or school district of his or her choice
- Department of Human Services must determine that the transfer is in the best interest of the child
- In making the determination, the Department of Human services must consider whether other children who reside in the foster home attend the public school or school district to which the foster child is requesting to transfer
- All state and federal requirements concerning school of origin must be followed
- Public school or school district must allow the transfer unless they've reached maximum capacity or the transfer will conflict with a desegregation order or plan



## ACT 1039 — AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING DYSLEXIA SCREENING AND INTERVENTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Provides that the level II dyslexia screening shall be consistent with the Arkansas Dyslexia Resource Guide
- Requires a public school district to report on its website or in writing to parents information concerning the public school district's dyslexia intervention programs used, the number of students who received intervention, and the number of students identified with dyslexia
- Provides that failure to comply with the dyslexia screening and intervention requirements shall be a violation of the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts.



## ACT 1044 — AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR GRANTS AND AID TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018

- Appropriated \$4.3 million to the Department of Education for a national school lunch categorical funding matching grant program
- Funds will be distributed to school districts on a dollar for dollar matching basis of school district expenditures for evidence-based programs to improve academic achievement of NSL students
- The evidence-based programs are limited to tutors, before-school and after-school academic programs, and preK





## ACT 1059 — AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF TITLE 6 OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Provides that a public school district shall not use out-of-school suspension or expulsion for a K-5 student unless the student's behavior poses a physical risk to the student or others or causes a serious disruption that cannot be addressed through other means



## ACT 1062 — AN ACT TO EXTEND THE AMOUNT OF RECESS TIME REQUIRED FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

- Creates a one-year pilot program conducted by the Department of Education to expand the amount of recess provided to students in grades K-6
- K-4 students would receive 340 minutes per week of P.E. and recess, with at least 60 minutes per day to be recess
- Grade 5-6 students would receive 265 minutes per week of P.E. and recess, with at least 45 minutes per day to be recess
- Current requirement for K-6 students is 90 minutes of physical activity per week, which may include recess, with at least 40 of the 90 minutes being P.E.
- Provides that the department shall seek to identify 2 schools within the service area of each education service cooperative and 2 schools not served by an education service cooperative to participate in the pilot program

Provides that school districts can provide their own implementation plans in order to encourage innovation



## ACT 1063 — AN ACT TO CREATE THE RIGHT TO READ ACT

- No later than 2023, requires those who complete a state-approved educator preparation program and those seeking licensure to be proficient in the best practices of scientific reading instruction
- No later than 2023, requires those who complete a state-approved educator preparation program other than a teacher of elementary education program to demonstrate an awareness of the best practices of scientific reading instruction
- Requires public school districts and open-enrollment public charter schools to provide professional development in scientific reading instruction.



## ACT 1066 — AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE ACT OF 2015

- Amends various provisions of the Public School Choice Act of 2015
- Among other things, the act requires a school district that claims an exemption from the Public School Choice Act of 2015 because the school district is under an active desegregation court order or desegregation plan to submit documentation showing that the order or plan is active and enforceable and the specific language that limits the school district's participation
- Provides that the Department of Education shall maintain a list on its website of the school districts that are not required to participate
- Provides that the State Board of Education has authority to affirm or reverse a decision of the department as to whether a school district must participate
- Repeals language requiring the department to collect data to determine if a racially segregative impact has occurred to any school district as a result of participation.



## ACT 1105 — AN ACT TO LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF FUND BALANCES A SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY MAINTAIN

- Provides that a school district that has a net legal balance that exceeds 20% of the public school district's current year net legal balance revenues shall reduce its net legal balance over a period of 5 years to no more than 20% of the net legal balance revenues
- Allows a school district to reduce its balance by transferring funds into the district's building fund as long as the funds are dedicated to a specific construction, renovation, repair, or other planned building fund expenditure or project



## ACT 1118 — AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING CONCURRENT CREDIT

- Provides that a national school lunch student shall not be required to pay the costs up to a maximum of 6 hours of endorsed concurrent enrollment courses that are taught on the ground of the school district by a teacher employed by the school district
- Requires the costs to be paid by the public school district, by the institution of higher education offering the course, or through a cost-sharing agreement between the public school district and the institution of higher education
- Provides that any costs paid by an institution of higher education shall not be considered an institutional scholarship.



# Higher Education Acts



## Act 148 – AN ACT TO ADOPT A PRODUCTIVITY-BASED FUNDING MODEL FOR STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- Directs the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to adopt a productivity-based funding model developed by the Department of Higher Education
- The formula must contain measures that take into account institutional differences, student academic progression, affordability through on-time completion and limiting the earning of excess credits, serving underrepresented students, and production of graduates in STEM and high-demand fields
- Formula will be used to align funding with statewide higher education priorities





## ACT 315 — AN ACT CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP; AND TO EXPAND ELIGIBILITY AS A TRADITIONAL STUDENT

- Allows a student who did not receive an Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship as a freshman but who completed 27 credit hours with a 2.5 grade point average as a freshman to be classified as a traditional student in subsequent academic years in the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program



## Act 316 – AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS FUTURE GRANT PROGRAM

- New grant in an amount equal to the cost of attendance in a STEM or regional high-demand field program of study that leads to an associate degree or a certification less the amount of other financial assistance or scholarships received by the student
- Available for an Arkansas high school or home school graduate or high school equivalency diploma recipient and for an out-of-state graduate if the out-of-state graduate has resided in Arkansas for the immediately preceding 3 years
- Recipient must agree to receive monthly mentoring, perform community service, and reside in the state and begin working within 6 months of receiving an associate degree or certification
- Grant converts into a loan if the recipient doesn't keep the agreement
- Repeals the Arkansas Workforce Improvement Grant Program and the Higher Education Opportunities Grant Program



**ACT 541 — AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THAT  
EMERGENCY OR SECURITY RECORDS OR OTHER  
INFORMATION FOR A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT,  
PUBLIC SCHOOL, OR STATE-SUPPORTED  
INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IS EXEMPT  
FROM THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT OF  
1967**

- Provides that public school, public school district, and state-supported institution of higher education emergency or security plan records and records related to security officers are exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act of 1967



**ACT 556 — AN ACT TO REPEAL THE  
PROHIBITION ON COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND  
TECHNICAL COLLEGES FROM CONSTRUCTING,  
MAINTAINING, OR OPERATING A DORMITORY  
OR BARRACKS**

- Repeals the prohibition on a community college or technical college to construct, maintain, or operate a dormitory or barracks or to levy or collect a tax for a dormitory or barracks



## ACT 562 — AN ACT CONCERNING THE POSSESSION OF A CONCEALED HANDGUN IN A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY, PUBLIC COLLEGE, OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE BUILDING

- Establishes an advanced concealed carry license process whereby a concealed carry licensee can undergo training created by the Department of Arkansas State Police to earn an endorsement, enabling him or her to carry a concealed handgun in a number of previously prohibited places, such as most public buildings and facilities and a public university or college campus
- Amended by Act 859



## ACT 859 — AN ACT CONCERNING POSSESSION OF A CONCEALED HANDGUN ON THE PREMISES AND ON THE GROUNDS OF A TEACHING HOSPITAL; EXEMPTIN A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY OR PRIVATE COLLEGE FROM THE REQUIREMENT THAT IT POST AT ITS ENTRANCE THAT THE PRIVATE UNIVERSITY OR PRIVATE COLLEGE DOES NOT PERMIT THE CARRYING OF A CONCEALED HANDGUN

- Reinstated a prohibition against carrying a concealed handgun by a licensee in certain places, including public daycares, collegiate sporting event, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and the Arkansas State Hospital
- Those places are required to submit a security plan to the Department of Arkansas State Police that would designate them as firearm-sensitive areas where possession of a concealed handgun by a licensee is prohibited
- Clarified that a private entity could prohibit a person from carrying a concealed handgun under any circumstance by posting signage indicating that prohibition as well as communicating that prohibition verbally or in writing



## ACT 565 — AN ACT TO TRANSFER THE STATE BOARD OF PRIVATE CAREER EDUCATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- Transfers the State Board of Private Career Education to the Department of Higher Education



## Act 597 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER THE ARKANSAS CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Allows Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarships to be used for courses creditable toward a graduate-level or professional degree
- Allows a recipient receiving the highest scholarship amount to enroll as a part-time student and receive a prorated scholarship amount as long as the student is enrolled in the number of hours required to finish his or her degree





## Act 613 – AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS WORKFORCE CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP

- New lottery scholarship for students enrolled in certificate programs or associate degree programs leading to being qualified to work in a high-demand occupation in industry, health care, or information technology
- Funded by excess net lottery proceeds and only available for an academic year if there are at least \$250,000 of excess net lottery proceeds from the previous academic year and the Department of Higher Education did not receive a loan from the Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account for scholarships during the previous academic year
- Scholarship is available for any Arkansas resident who has a high school diploma or a high school equivalency diploma and is not receiving an Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship



## ACT 719 — AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Provides that a student may attend summer terms at the student's own expense to earn credit hours necessary to maintain eligibility for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship
- Clarifies that a traditional student who loses eligibility may apply for a scholarship as a nontraditional student.



**ACT 844 — AN ACT TO REPEAL A SECTION IN  
THE ARKANSAS CODE THAT GRANTS FREE  
TUITION TO STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS  
OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR WORLD WAR I  
VETERANS**

- Repeals the requirement that World War I veterans be admitted to state-supported institutions of higher education tuition-free



**ACT 1007 — AN ACT TO REQUIRE INSTITUTIONS  
OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO PROVIDE  
INFORMATION ON MENTAL HEALTH AND  
SUICIDE PREVENTION SERVICES TO ENTERING  
STUDENTS**

- Requires institutions of higher education to provide to entering students information on mental health and suicide prevention services



## ACT 1041 – AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AMOUNTS FOR ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

- Allows an applicant for an Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship to elect for the earned semester credit hours counted for the purposes of the scholarship to be only those earned after graduating from high school or obtaining a high school equivalency diploma
- The result of this election would be that any concurrent credit an applicant earned in high school would not count toward the 120 credit hours allowed for receiving the scholarship
- Works in conjunction with Act 597 to allow a recipient to use the scholarship for a graduate-level program until the recipient reaches 120 credit hours if the recipient obtained a baccalaureate degree before earning 120 credit hours after graduating from high school or obtaining a high school equivalency diploma

