

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to law as it existed prior to the 82nd General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 82nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1999  
4

# A Bill

Act 479 of 1999  
SENATE BILL 444

5 By: Senators D. Malone, Mahony  
6  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 "AN ACT TO REPEAL THE VARIOUS CODE SECTIONS PERTAINING  
10 TO THE OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY; AND FOR OTHER  
11 PURPOSES. "

## Subtitle

14 "AN ACT TO REPEAL THE VARIOUS CODE  
15 SECTIONS PERTAINING TO THE OFFICE OF  
16 ACCOUNTABILITY. "

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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 6-53-204 is repealed.

22 ~~6-53-204. Office of Accountability.~~

23 ~~(a) The Office of Accountability of the Department of Higher Education~~  
24 ~~shall have the following duties in regard to the technical and community~~  
25 ~~colleges:-~~

26 ~~(1) To study the effectiveness of the delivery of postsecondary~~  
27 ~~education following the conversions, mergers, and consolidations under this~~  
28 ~~chapter;-~~

29 ~~(2) To assess institutions in the area of student achievement;-~~

30 ~~(3) To measure progress through job placement, job retention, and~~  
31 ~~wage rates for students leaving the system;-~~

32 ~~(4) To identify exemplary programs for duplication within the~~  
33 ~~system;-~~

34 ~~(5) To report annually to the director, the board, the Governor,~~  
35 ~~and the General Assembly on provisions authorized in this chapter.~~

36 ~~(b) The Office of Accountability shall make available to the Joint~~

1 ~~Interim Oversight Subcommittee on Educational Reform and the House and Senate~~  
 2 ~~Interim Committees on Education of the General Assembly the reports the office~~  
 3 ~~submits to the director.~~

4 ~~(c) The Advisory Committee on Accountability established in § 6-15-804~~  
 5 ~~as the citizens' advisory committee on accountability in education for this~~  
 6 ~~state shall also assist the Office of Accountability in the performance of its~~  
 7 ~~duties under this chapter.~~

8 ~~(d) The annual report provided under § 6-15-809 shall include any~~  
 9 ~~findings and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Accountability~~  
 10 ~~concerning two-year postsecondary educational programs in this state.~~

11 ~~(e) Establishment of the Office of Accountability and implementation of~~  
 12 ~~the provisions of this section which directly affect the operation of the~~  
 13 ~~Department of Higher Education shall be contingent on the appropriation and~~  
 14 ~~funding of the staff and operating budget necessary to allow the department to~~  
 15 ~~carry out the duties assigned to the department in this chapter.~~

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 17 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code 6-61-901 is amended to read as follows:

18 "6-61-901 Purpose.

19 In order to enhance the public's access to performance indicators and to  
 20 better measure the dividends paid on the increasing public investment in  
 21 Arkansas' institutions of higher education, the General Assembly finds that a  
 22 separate office of accountability should be established within the Department  
 23 of Higher Education. ~~The foremost obligation of this office shall be to~~  
 24 ~~publish annual campus-by-campus assessments, noting student achievement and~~  
 25 ~~research accomplishments and providing information to set future performance~~  
 26 ~~goals for each campus. A coequal obligation of this office is to be accurate~~  
 27 ~~and open with the department, the House and Senate Interim Committees on~~  
 28 ~~Education of the General Assembly, the Joint Interim Oversight Subcommittee on~~  
 29 ~~Education Reform, and the public."~~

30  
 31 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code 6-61-902 is amended to read as follows:

32 6-61-902. ~~Creation -- Coordinator and staff.~~ Office of accountability  
 33 with the Department of Higher Education.

34 "(a) There is created the Office of Accountability within the  
 35 Department of Higher Education.

36 (b) ~~The Director of the Department of Higher Education shall establish~~

1 ~~a coordinator and staff for the Office of Accountability. The Office of~~  
 2 ~~Accountability is authorized and directed to collect and analyze information~~  
 3 ~~that may be required to meet any state or federal requirement.~~

4 (c) Under the direction of the Director of the Department of Higher  
 5 Education, the staff of the Office of Accountability shall work cooperatively  
 6 with and provide any necessary assistance to the House and Senate Interim  
 7 Committees on Education."

8  
 9 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code 6-61-903 is repealed.

10 ~~6-61-903. Duties.~~

11 ~~The Office of Accountability shall have the following duties:~~

12 ~~(1) Beginning in 1992, to issue an annual report on the results~~  
 13 ~~of an overall study of accountability measures in higher education;~~

14 ~~(2) To develop and publish results of a campus-by-campus~~  
 15 ~~assessment program of student achievement and research accomplishments;~~

16 ~~(3) Using funds authorized by this subchapter and appropriated~~  
 17 ~~for this purpose, to make demonstration project grants to at least one (1)~~  
 18 ~~public four-year and one (1) public two-year institution in order to develop~~  
 19 ~~model institutional assessment programs which will serve as pilots for other~~  
 20 ~~colleges and universities in the state. The Department of Higher Education is~~  
 21 ~~authorized to develop rules and procedures for selecting demonstration~~  
 22 ~~projects and awarding grants for this purpose;~~

23 ~~(4) To administer a "rising junior" test designed to test~~  
 24 ~~students' abilities to satisfactorily perform upper level course requirements~~  
 25 ~~and publish results of the test;~~

26 ~~(5) To work with institutions of higher education to develop~~  
 27 ~~common instruments used by the institutions to measure job placement, job~~  
 28 ~~retention, and wage rates for recent graduates and nongraduating students, and~~  
 29 ~~to measure student satisfaction by graduates and nongraduating students with~~  
 30 ~~their education experience, and to report results to the Department of Higher~~  
 31 ~~Education for publication;~~

32 ~~(6) To compare the performance of Arkansas college graduates with~~  
 33 ~~graduates from other states, based on measures such as scores on Graduate~~  
 34 ~~Record Exams, the Law School Admissions Test, Graduate Management Admissions~~  
 35 ~~Test, National Teachers Exam, and Medical College Admissions Test and publish~~  
 36 ~~these results;~~

1           ~~(7) To identify those programs which could be internationally~~  
2 ~~competitive by the year 2001;~~

3           ~~(8) To offer similar assistance to private institutions of higher~~  
4 ~~education willing to participate in programs of the office; and~~

5           ~~(9) To report annually to the Governor and General Assembly on~~  
6 ~~provisions authorized in this subchapter.~~

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8           SECTION 5. Arkansas Code 6-61-904 is repealed.

9           ~~6-61-904. Reports - Cooperation with legislative committees.~~

10          ~~(a) The Office of Accountability shall make available to the Joint~~  
11 ~~Interim Oversight Subcommittee on Educational Reform and the House and Senate~~  
12 ~~Interim Committees on Education the reports the office submits to the Director~~  
13 ~~of the Department of Higher Education.~~

14          ~~(b) Under the direction of the Director of the Department of Higher~~  
15 ~~Education, the staff of the Office of Accountability shall work cooperatively~~  
16 ~~with and provide any necessary assistance to the Joint Interim Oversight~~  
17 ~~Subcommittee on Educational Reform and the House and Senate Interim Committees~~  
18 ~~on Education.~~

19          ~~(c) The Office of Accountability shall furnish information to~~  
20 ~~appropriate legislative committees upon request.~~

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22          SECTION 6. Arkansas Code 6-61-905 is repealed.

23          ~~6-61-905. Advisory committee.~~

24          ~~a) The Advisory Committee on Accountability established in § 6-15-804~~  
25 ~~shall serve as a citizens' advisory committee on accountability for the Office~~  
26 ~~of Accountability established herein.~~

27          ~~(b) Any biennial reports required under § 6-15-809 shall include~~  
28 ~~findings and recommendations in regard to areas of concern for higher~~  
29 ~~education in addition to those required by law.~~

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31          SECTION 7. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature  
32 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code  
33 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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35          SECTION 8. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to  
36 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect

1 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without  
2 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
3 act are declared to be severable.

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5 SECTION 9. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
6 hereby repealed.

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9 APPROVED: 3/8/1999  
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