

1 State of Arkansas As Engrossed: S3/16/17 H3/27/17

2 91st General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2017

SENATE BILL 441

4

5 By: Senator J. English

6 By: Representative Cozart

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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE A LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE TO REVIEW
10 TECHNICAL AND WORKFORCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND
11 RECOMMEND WAYS TO ALIGN TECHNICAL AND WORKFORCE
12 EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO PRODUCE AN EFFICIENT,
13 TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED TECHNICAL AND WORKFORCE
14 EDUCATION SYSTEM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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Subtitle

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative Task Force
29 on Workforce Education Excellence – Creation – Membership – Duties.

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(a) There is created the Legislative Task Force on Workforce Education
31 Excellence.

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(b) The task force shall consist of sixteen (16) members as follows:

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(1) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Education;

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(2) The Chair of the House Committee on Education;

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(3) One (1) member of the Senate from the First Congressional

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District, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;



1 (4) One (1) member of the House of Representatives from the
2 First Congressional District, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
3 Representatives;

4 (5) One (1) member of the Senate from the Second Congressional
5 District, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

6 (6) One (1) member of the House of Representatives from the
7 Second Congressional District, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
8 Representatives;

9 (7) One (1) member of the Senate from the Third Congressional
10 District, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

11 (8) One (1) member of the House of Representatives from the
12 Third Congressional District, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
13 Representatives;

14 (9) One (1) member of the Senate from the Fourth Congressional
15 District, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

16 (10) One (1) member of the House of Representatives from the
17 Fourth Congressional District, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
18 Representatives; and

19 (11)(A) Six (6) members who represent industry in Arkansas to be
20 appointed as follows:

21 (i) Three (3) members to be appointed by the
22 President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and

23 (ii) Three (3) members to be appointed by the
24 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

25 (B) The members appointed under subdivision (11)(A) of
26 this section shall be chosen from a list of names submitted by the Arkansas
27 State Chamber of Commerce that shall include without limitation:

28 (i) Industry executives;

29 (ii) Human resources personnel;

30 (iii) Licensed professionals; and

31 (iv) Other representatives of industry.

32 (c)(1) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Education and the Chair of
33 the House Committee on Education shall call the first meeting of the task
34 force within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this act and shall
35 serve as cochairs of the task force.

36 (2) At the first meeting of task force, the members of the task

1 force shall elect from its membership other officers as needed for the
2 transaction of business.

3 (3)(A) The task force shall conduct its meetings at the State
4 Capitol Building or another site selected by the chair.

5 (B) Meetings of the task force shall be held at least one
6 (1) time every three (3) months but may occur more often at the call of the
7 chair.

8 (4) The task force shall establish rules and procedures for
9 conducting business.

10 (5) If a vacancy occurs on the task force, the vacancy shall be
11 filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

12 (6)(A) Legislative members of the task force shall be paid per
13 diem and mileage as authorized by law for attendance at meetings of interim
14 committees of the General Assembly.

15 (B) Non-legislative members of the task force shall serve
16 without compensation but may receive reimbursement under § 25-16-902.

17 (7)(A) A majority of the members of the task force shall
18 constitute a quorum for transacting business.

19 (B) No action may be taken by the task force except by a
20 majority vote at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

21 (8) The task force may expend funds and resources in carrying
22 out its purpose and responsibilities that are appropriated or funded by the
23 General Assembly or a third party.

24 (9) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff for
25 the task force.

26 (d)(1) The task force shall review and research ways to improve career
27 and technical education programs and workforce development programs and to
28 align career and technical education programs and workforce development
29 programs to achieve a positive economic impact on the State of Arkansas.

30 (2) The task force shall:

31 (A) Review the current structure, fiscal performance,
32 compliance, and outcomes of the career and technical education programs and
33 workforce development programs offered through:

34 (i) High schools;

35 (ii) Secondary vocational area centers, as defined
36 in § 6-20-2303;

- 1 (iii) Two-year institutions of higher education;
2 (iv) Four-year institutions of higher education;
3 (v) The Department of Career Education;
4 (vi) The Department of Workforce Services;
5 (vii) Apprenticeship schools, offices, and programs,
6 including at the Department of Labor, Department of Career Education,
7 Department of Workforce Services, Department of Human Services, and other
8 apprenticeship schools receiving public funds; and
9 (viii) Other agencies or organizations that offer
10 career and technical education programs or workforce development programs;
11 (B) Review the workforce needs of the state now and in the
12 future;
13 (C) Recommend strategies to meet the workforce needs of
14 the state;
15 (D) Research and recommend ways to improve the delivery of
16 career and technical education programs and workforce development programs;
17 (E) Research and recommend strategies to align the career
18 and technical education programs and workforce development programs;
19 (F) Research and recommend strategies that:
20 (i) Reduce skill shortages;
21 (ii) Enhance the state's economic growth;
22 (iii) Meet industry demands;
23 (iv) Improve fiscal and operational consistency and
24 efficiency as it relates to career and technical education among statewide
25 high schools, secondary vocational area centers, apprenticeship programs, and
26 two-year state-supported institutions of higher education;
27 (v) Create alignment among educational and career
28 pathways, concurrent credit opportunities, apprenticeship credits for
29 relevant secondary and college courses, and work-based learning opportunities
30 for students transitioning among high schools, secondary vocational area
31 centers, apprenticeship programs, two-year state-supported institutions of
32 higher education, and employment;
33 (vi) Identify and overcome barriers to improve
34 career and technical education programs and workforce development programs
35 and to align career and technical education programs and workforce
36 development programs to achieve a positive economic impact on the State of

1 Arkansas, including without limitation:

2 (a) Any limitations on work-based learning
3 opportunities for high school and college students;

4 (b) A lack of career-centric, outcome-based
5 incentives at all levels of education;

6 (c) The gap between education requirements and
7 employer and labor market needs; and

8 (d) The lack of strategic alignment and
9 collaboration among the similarly motivated workforce and education programs
10 of agencies, school districts, and institutions of higher education; and

11 (vii) Provide access to high-quality, globally
12 competitive career and technical education programs and workforce development
13 programs;

14 (G) Review best practices among other states;

15 (H) Review regional, prioritized occupations and skills
16 needed by using the priorities and regions defined by each local workforce
17 development board under the Arkansas Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
18 Act, § 15-4-3701 et seq., as a starting point, which shall drive program and
19 funding priorities for the entities, pathways, curricula, training, and
20 credit opportunities;

21 (I) Review methods to create and implement a statewide
22 plan for promotion and recruitment of talent to opportunities in the highest
23 priority occupations;

24 (J) Review ways to reduce duplication of effort and
25 achieve alignment and collaboration in improving career and technical
26 education programs and workforce development programs and aligning career and
27 technical education programs and workforce development programs to achieve a
28 positive economic impact on the State of Arkansas;

29 (K) Engage the following:

30 (i) Local workforce development committees under the
31 Arkansas Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, § 15-4-3701 et seq.;

32 (ii) Arkansas Economic Development Commission;

33 (iii) Department of Workforce Services;

34 (iv) Department of Higher Education;

35 (v) Department of Education;

36 (vi) Department of Career Education;

1 (vii) Administrators of two-year state-supported
2 institutions of higher education;

3 (viii) Arkansas Community Colleges;

4 (ix) Association of Arkansas Development
5 Organizations;

6 (x) Arkansas Association of Education
7 Administrators;

8 (xi) Secondary vocational area center directors; and

9 (xii) Public school district superintendents; and

10 (L) Review methods to create and adopt an inter-agency
11 data and information sharing plan that includes accounting for necessary
12 information technology infrastructure that records and makes available to all
13 agencies the funding provided and obligated, whether federal or state funds,
14 to support education, training, workforce development, and related equipment
15 and infrastructure.

16 (e)(1) On or before February 1, 2018, the task force shall file with
17 the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro
18 Tempore of the Senate, and the chairs of the House Committee on Education and
19 the Senate Committee on Education a written preliminary report of the
20 activities, findings, and recommendations of the task force.

21 (2)(A) On or before September 1, 2018, the task force shall file
22 with the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President
23 Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the chairs of the House Committee on Education
24 and the Senate Committee on Education a written, final report of the
25 activities, findings, and recommendations of the task force.

26 (B) The task force may file an updated final report on or
27 before July 1, 2019.

28 (f) The task force expires on July 1, 2019.

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30 /s/J. English

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33 **APPROVED: 04/05/2017**