

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021  
4

As Engrossed: H3/18/21 S4/5/21

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1700

5 By: Representative Bentley  
6 By: Senator G. Stubblefield  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO IMPROVE STUDENT OUTCOMES BY PROVIDING  
10 STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND GUIDANCE COUNSELORS WITH  
11 RELIABLE INFORMATION REGARDING THE COST OF COLLEGE  
12 AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER  
13 PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

16 TO IMPROVE STUDENT OUTCOMES BY PROVIDING  
17 STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND GUIDANCE  
18 COUNSELORS WITH RELIABLE INFORMATION  
19 REGARDING THE COST OF COLLEGE AND JOB  
20 OPPORTUNITIES IN ARKANSAS.  
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22  
23

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
25

26 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

27 The General Assembly finds that:

28 (1) A fundamental goal of Arkansas's secondary and higher  
29 education system is not only to educate and enrich young people, but also to  
30 help young people establish a solid foundation for good-paying work;

31 (2) The cost of college continues to increase for young  
32 individuals across the country, and student debt has become the second-  
33 largest financial debt vehicle in the United States;

34 (3) The General Assembly is proud of its institutions of higher  
35 education and believes they can compete with any in the nation, but their  
36 cost to enrollees must be as transparent as possible;





1 (C) Career and technical education programs;

2 (8) The share of college graduates working in an occupation that  
3 does not require a college degree for each major;

4 (9) The approximate average starting salary for individuals  
5 graduating from a college;

6 (10) The approximate average starting salary for individuals who  
7 have completed:

8 (A) An apprenticeship program;

9 (B) A high school credential program; or

10 (C) A career and technical education program; and

11 (11) The approximate average starting salary for individuals  
12 graduating from a two-year college in the state.

13 (b) The division shall work with the following entities without  
14 limitation to collect and compile the information required under subsection  
15 (a) of this section:

16 (1) The Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce;

17 (2) The Division of Career and Technical Education;

18 (3) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education;

19 (4) The Division of Information Systems; and

20 (5) The Department of Commerce.

21 (c)(1) The information collected and compiled under subsection (a) of  
22 this section shall utilize current state reports compiled into a single,  
23 easily understandable digest.

24 (2) The state reports to be utilized shall include without  
25 limitation the:

26 (A) Higher Education Consumer Guide;

27 (B) Economic Securities Report;

28 (C) Ready for Life Initiative report and State  
29 Longitudinal Data System;

30 (D) College Scorecard; and

31 (E) Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System Data  
32 Feedback reports of the National Center for Education Statistics.

33  
34 6-60-1203. Information published to public by Division of Higher  
35 Education.

36 (a) The Division of Higher Education shall partner with the Ready for

1 Life Initiative to include information required under § 6-60-1202 in the  
2 Arkansas Ready for Life searchable database, which shall include without  
3 limitation:

- 4 (1) Approximate average annual cost;
- 5 (2) Average graduation rate;
- 6 (3) Average salary after attending;
- 7 (4) Highest paying salaries for top five (5) majors;
- 8 (5) Full-time enrollment headcount;
- 9 (6) Race and ethnicity information of enrollees in each program;
- 10 (7) Percentage of students in student loan default;
- 11 (8) Typical total federal student loan debt after graduation;
- 12 (9) Percentage of students receiving federal student loans;
- 13 (10) Typical monthly federal student loan payment;
- 14 (11) The average one-year retention rate of students majoring in  
15 the top five (5) majors;
- 16 (12) Average success rates, which measure the percentage of  
17 students who have graduated, transferred, or are still enrolled in colleges  
18 in this state.

19 (b)(1) The database established under subsection (a) of this section  
20 shall provide individuals with the ability to select a specific major or  
21 program at a specific college.

22 (2) Upon selecting a specific major or program at a specific  
23 college while using the database, the following overview shall be provided,  
24 to be filled in with information required under subsection (a) of this  
25 section as it applies to the specific major or program at the specific  
26 college that the individual selected:

27 "For every 100 students starting in {insert major} in this  
28 state, {insert number} will graduate in 6 years; of those, {insert number}  
29 will get a job with an average starting salary of {insert salary} within 6  
30 months of graduation. The average debt for the graduates will be {insert  
31 debt}. The total cost on average for this degree is {insert total amount  
32 paid}. Of the {insert number} who don't graduate, they will accumulate an  
33 average debt of {insert debt}."

34  
35 6-60-1204. Information published and distributed to middle and high  
36 school students by Department of Education.

