

ARKANSAS SENATE
86th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2007
Amendment Form

Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 703

"AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES - TRUCKING,
TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS FIELDS TUITION FORGIVENESS GENERAL
IMPROVEMENT APPROPRIATION."

Amendment No. 3 to Senate Bill No. 703.

Amend Senate Bill No. 703 as engrossed, S3/15/07 (version: 03-15-2007 09:11):

Section 1, delete subsection (A) in its entirety and insert therefor:

"(A) For implementation, operating, and personal services costs of a tuition forgiveness program for qualified Arkansas residents securing jobs in the trucking, transportation and logistics fields, the sum of.....\$9,000,000.";

AND

Following Section 1, insert these sections:

" SECTION 2. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

ADMINISTRATION. (a) The Arkansas Department of Workforce Services will serve as the fiscal agent and coordinator of the Transportation Workforce Economic Development Program in consultation and cooperation with the Arkansas Department of Economic Development, the Department of Workforce Education, the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, and the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board.

(b) The Arkansas Department of Workforce Services shall adopt rules to administer the program, develop and certify eligibility requirements for a tuition forgiveness program as defined herein, monitor all residents after they have secured jobs in the trucking and transportation industry to encourage that they remain employed and to determine tuition forgiveness eligibility, and consult with industry for program recommendations. The Department of Workforce Services may contract with, or provide grants to, experienced third parties as required to promote, recruit, qualify, and enroll eligible residents.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009."

AND



" SECTION 3. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES/EXPENDITURES. (a) Expenditures to institutions of higher education may be through grants or contracts and shall provide for tuition costs, housing, meals, travel and related equipment expenses necessary to train qualified Arkansas residents for careers in the trucking or transportation industries at Mid-South Community College, Arkansas State University – Newport, Arkansas State University - Mountain Home, Cossatot Community College - U of A, University of Arkansas–Fort Smith, North Arkansas College, Northwest Arkansas Community College, Phillips Community College - U of A, Pulaski Technical College, South Arkansas Community College, and U of A Community College - Hope. The participating institutions shall receive prior approval from the Department of Workforce Services for the curriculums applicable under this Act.

(b) Expenditures by the Department of Workforce Services for administration, contracting and implementation shall not exceed eight hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$850,000) in either fiscal year of the biennium; expenditures by institutions for equipment and infrastructure shall occur only in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 and shall not exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000).

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009."

AND

" SECTION 4. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TUITION FORGIVENESS PROGRAM. (a) Students must meet the following eligibility requirements to qualify for tuition forgiveness:

(A) Are residents of the State of Arkansas and citizens of the United States;

(B) Meet all federal and state eligibility requirements to qualify for a commercial driver license;

(C) Complete all training requirements and examinations necessary at a designated public institution of higher education identified herein to be a professional truck driver, technician, or an occupation in trucking and transportation for which courses are offered at the institutions of higher education identified herein and are determined for eligibility by the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services;

(D) Become employed in a job occupation for which they were trained within ninety days of graduation;

(E) Remain employed in their trained occupation for twelve months from the date of their original employment.

(b) If a resident completes all eligibility requirements as defined and is employed in the same job occupation for one year, the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services shall forgive the tuition and related expenses for training in an amount not to exceed \$3,500.

(c) Residents who do not graduate from the program or who do not work full-time in the job for which they were trained for one-year shall repay the tuition in accordance with the resident's agreement upon acceptance in the Transportation Workforce Economic Development Program as promulgated in rules

by the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services.

(d) Any person participating in the Tuition Forgiveness Program pursuant to this Act shall be liable to repay any sum paid to or on his/her behalf, to the Department of Workforce Services, if such student fails to meet all requirements of the Tuition Forgiveness Program.

(A) The Director of the Department of Workforce Services shall have authority to institute and prosecute in his name, as such, all suits and proceedings necessary for the collection of any sums paid on behalf of any person(s) receiving payments under the Tuition Forgiveness Program and subsequently failing to meet all requirements of the Program.

(B) Any person liable to repay tuition assistance received, as provided herein, shall be subject to having any state income tax refund to which he/she may be entitled intercepted pursuant to A.C.A. 26-36-301 et seq. as administered by the Revenue Division of the Department of Finance and Administration.

(C) All sums recovered by the Department of Workforce Services shall be credited to the fund account out of which such assistance was first paid, or to an appropriate training fund administered by the Department of Workforce Services.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009.";

And renumber the sections following the above insertions.

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and _____

By: Senator Critcher

TWV/TWV - 03-16-2007 16:26

TWV277

Secretary