Hall of the House of Representatives

87th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2009

Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Bill No. 1956 "TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS PROJECT GRADUATION COMMISSION."

Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 1956.

Amend House Bill No. 1956 as originally introduced:

Page 1, delete all the language after the enacting clause and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 1, is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER 4 - THE ARKANSAS PROJECT GRADUATION COMMISSION

6-1-401. Findings.

The General Assembly finds that:

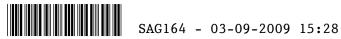
- (1) Graduation rates are an:
 - (A) Important economic indicator for the state's economy;

and

- (B) Essential indicator of school performance for parents, policy makers, and other concerned community members;
- (2) Arkansans who fail to earn a high school diploma or postsecondary degree are:
 - (A) At a great disadvantage when it comes to obtaining:
 - (i) High paying jobs; and
 - (ii) Health care; and
 - (B) More likely to:
 - (i) Become parents at a young age; and
 - (ii) Be involved in the criminal justice system; and
- (3) Low graduation rates adversely affect the economic opportunities of the state and decrease the state's competitive edge.
 - 6-1-402. Purpose.

The purpose of the Arkansas Project Graduation Commission is to:

- (1) Investigate high school dropout prevention strategies;
- (2) Analyze the relationship between high school graduation rates and the state's economy; and
- (3) Recommend strategies that will increase the overall high school graduation rate of Arkansas students by helping parents, schools, and students identify academic warning signs of dropout.
 - 6-1-403. Arkansas Project Graduation Commission.
 - (a) There is created the "Arkansas Project Graduation Commission".
 - The commission is composed of the following members:



- (1) Three (3) members appointed by the Governor, one (1) of whom shall act as the chair of the commission;
- (2) Three (3) members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- (3) Three (3) members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;
 - (4) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee;
- (5) The Director of the Department of Higher Education or his or her designee; and
- (6) The Director of the Department of Workforce Education or his or her designee.
- (c) Each member of the commission shall be a resident of the State of Arkansas throughout his or her term.
- (d) The appointed members of the commission shall serve staggered terms of three (3) years to be decided by a random draw at the first meeting of the commission, with:
 - (1) Four (4) members serving terms of three (3) years;
 - (2) Four (4) members serving terms of two (2) years; and
 - (3) Four (4) members serving a term of one (1) year.
- (e) If a vacancy occurs in an appointed position, the vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term by an appointment made in the same manner as the original appointment.
 - 6-1-404. Organization and operation.
- (a) The Arkansas Project Graduation Commission shall elect annually a chair, a vice chair, and a secretary.
- (b) The commission shall meet one (1) time each month, rotating meeting locations between the:
 - (1) Department of Education;
 - (2) Department of Higher Education; and
 - (3) Department of Workforce Education.
- (c) A majority of the commission members constitute a quorum for conducting business.
- (e)(1) The members of the commission may receive an expense reimbursement for attendance at each monthly meeting in accordance with § 25-16-902.
- (2) The expense reimbursement shall be paid by the Department of Education from funds available for that purpose.
 - 6-1-405. Report.
- (a) The Arkansas Project Graduation Commission shall report by November 1, 2009, and each year thereafter, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education.
 - (b) The report shall contain, without limitation:
 - (1) Information on:
 - (A) High school graduation rates in the state; and
 - (B) Postsecondary graduation rates in the state;
 - (2) Effective strategies for increasing the:
 - (A) High school graduation rate; and
 - (B) Postsecondary degree completion rate; and
- (3) The impact high school graduation rates and postsecondary degree completion rates have on the state's economy.

The Amendment was read	
By: Representative Word	
SAG/LNS - 03-09-2009 15:28	
SAG164	Chief Clerk