

Hall of the House of Representatives
88th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2011
Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Bill No. 2219

TO PROVIDE STATE SUPPORT FOR THE ELECTRICAL ENERGY ADVANCEMENT
PROGRAM FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 2219

Amend House Bill No. 2219 as originally introduced:

Add Representative Lindsey as a cosponsor of the bill

AND

Delete everything after the enacting clause and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. Legislative intent.

(a) The purpose of this subchapter is to provide state support for the Electrical Energy Advancement Program for institutions of higher education.

(b) The General Assembly finds that the Electrical Energy Advancement Program:

(1) Is identified as a key competency for Arkansas in the Battelle study commissioned by the Arkansas Research Alliance;

(2) Will focus on education, research, and economic development in the electrical energy sector to capitalize on one (1) of Arkansas's core technology competencies;

(3) Is vital to the economic development of Arkansas; and

(4) Is expected to be a source of tremendous job growth within Arkansas over the next decade.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 61, is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 14 - Electrical Energy Advancement Program

6-61-1401. Arkansas Statewide Energy Consortium.

(a) There is created the Arkansas Statewide Energy Consortium consisting of the:

(1) University of Arkansas, Fayetteville;

(2) University of Arkansas, Little Rock; and

(3) Arkansas State University, Jonesboro.



(b)(1) The consortium shall be headquartered at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, National Center for Reliable Electric Power Transmission.

(2) The University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, shall administer the Electrical Energy Advancement Program Fund.

6-61-1402. Electrical Energy Advancement Program Fund Board.

(a) The Electrical Energy Advancement Program Fund Board is created to make recommendations to the Arkansas Statewide Energy Consortium regarding the allocation of funds for the programs approved under this subchapter.

(b) The board is composed of sixteen (16) members as follows:

(1)(A) The executive director of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, National Center for Reliable Electric Power Transmission or the director's designee, who shall serve as chair of the board and represent the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

(B) The chair shall be a regular voting member with one (1) vote;

(2) Seven (7) of the members from the private electrical energy sector;

(3) Three (3) of the members from the United States Department of Energy national laboratories;

(4) The president of the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority or the president's designee;

(5) One (1) member who is designated by Arkansas State University;

(6) One (1) member who is designated by the University of Arkansas, Little Rock;

(7) The executive director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission or the executive director's designee; and

(8) One (1) member who is designated by the Arkansas Public Service Commission.

(c)(1) Each private electrical energy sector member of the committee shall:

(A)(i) Be from an organization that is:

(a) Involved in the generation, transmission, or distribution of electricity; or

(b) Engaged in the design or manufacturing of electrical equipment for the generation, transmission, distribution or power conversion of electricity including electrified transportation.

(ii) An individual under this subdivision (c)(1)(A) shall have experience managing an organization that meets the description of this subdivision (c)(1)(A); and

(B) Have obtained at least an undergraduate degree from a four-year institution of higher learning in science or engineering.

(2) Each national laboratory member of the board shall:

(A) Be from a national laboratory group directly involved in the research and development of advanced technologies for the electric power grid; and

(B) Have obtained at least an undergraduate degree from a four-year institution of higher learning in science or engineering.

(d)(1) The chair shall seek nominations for the initial list of private electrical energy sector and national laboratory board members from:

(A) Each member of the board who is not from the private electrical energy sector or a national laboratory; and

(B) The Governor.

(2) From the recommendations, the chair will nominate the initial private electrical energy sector and national laboratory board members to the balance of the board for consideration and appointment to the board.

(e)(1) Except for the initial terms identified under this subsection, each private electrical energy sector and national laboratory board member shall serve a four-year term, with a maximum of two (2) consecutive four-year terms.

(2) The initial terms of the private electrical energy sector board members shall be as follows:

(A) One (1) member shall serve a one-year term;

(B) Two (2) members shall serve a two-year term;

(C) Two (2) members shall serve a three-year term; and

(D) Two (2) members shall serve a four-year term.

(3) The initial terms of the national laboratory board members shall be as follows:

(A) One (1) member shall serve a two-year term;

(B) One (1) member shall serve a three-year term; and

(C) One (1) member shall serve a four-year term.

(4) The chair shall determine the terms of the initial private and national laboratory members of the board.

(5) Each member may be reappointed from time to time thereafter to serve no more than a maximum of (8) consecutive years including his or her initial term.

(f) Successors to the initial private electrical energy sector and national laboratory board members shall be nominated by the chair upon recommendation by the board.

(g) Members of the board who are not private electrical energy sector or national laboratory board members shall serve at the pleasure of the entity where they are employed.

(h)(1) The chair shall call the first meeting of the board not less than three (3) months after funding is received in the Electrical Energy Advancement Program Fund.

(2) Subsequent meetings shall be held on the call of the chair and shall convene at the National Center for Reliable Electric Power Transmission.

(i) A quorum shall consist of not less than a majority of the voting membership of the board, and the affirmative vote of that number is necessary for the disposition of the board's business.

(j)(1) Members of the board shall receive no pay for services with respect to attendance at each regular or special meeting of the board.

(2)(A) However, if funds are appropriated for the purpose and subject to board approval, members are entitled to reimbursement under § 25-16-902 for each day the board is in session.

(B) Reimbursement is in an amount equal to the maximum daily allowance for meals and lodging paid as provided by law to a state employee for in-state travel plus mileage at the rate per mile provided by law for the reimbursement of mileage expense for state employees for travel from their homes to the place of the meeting and their return.

(k) The National Center for Reliable Electric Power Transmission shall provide staff for the board.

6-61-1403. Duties.

(a)(1) The Electrical Energy Advancement Program Fund Board shall make recommendations to the Arkansas Statewide Energy Consortium concerning the funding, funding ratios, and maximum amounts to be made available among the proposals and programs for:

(A) Competitive undergraduate scholarships for Arkansas residents in the field of electrical and electronic engineering at the member universities of the consortium to be given in accordance with institutional guidelines; and

(B) Competitive graduate fellowships for master's and doctoral students in electrical and electronic engineering at member universities of the consortium to be given in accordance with institutional guidelines with preference given to Arkansas residents.

(2) One-time project costs may include without limitation the cost of:

(A) Facilitating the hiring of new tenure-track faculty at each of the consortium member institutions to increase the capacity and expertise of each university to:

(i) Perform research; and

(ii) Successfully return that research to the classroom for the benefit of the entire consortium;

(B) Expediting economic development through research by providing startup funds for successful applicants;

(C) Continuing education programs to serve practicing engineers in the energy sector whose professional licensure or registration requires at least fifteen (15) hours of continuing education annually; and

(D) Collaborative research projects between and among the consortium member institutions.

(b) The board may base its recommendations for use of the funds on a proposal's:

(1) Technical merit;

(2) Potential impact on the state's economic growth; and

(3) Potential for strengthening the state's electrical energy education programs.

(c)(1) Annually by June 30, the board shall:

(A) Report its actions to the Governor; and

(B) Provide a copy of the report to the agencies included in the report's recommendations.

(2) The board may provide the report required under this subsection by electronic means or by a printed copy.

(d) The board shall promulgate rules to implement this section.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 19, Chapter 5, Subchapter 12 is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

19-5-1243. Electrical Energy Advancement Program Fund.

(a) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, the Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a miscellaneous fund to be known as the "Electrical Energy Advancement Program Fund".

(b) The fund shall consist of:

- (1) Funds provided by law;
- (2) Grants made by any person or federal government agency; and
- (3) Other funds that become available through energy programs.

(c) The fund shall be used by the Arkansas Statewide Energy Consortium under the Electrical Energy Advancement Program, § 6-61-1401 et seq., to provide opportunities for Arkansas citizens to legitimately pursue high-technology and knowledge-based jobs in the electrical energy sector of Arkansas by providing a statewide, collaborative educational system focused on this sector.

SECTION 4. DO NOT CODIFY. The provisions of this act shall expire six (6) years from the effective date of the act unless extended by the General Assembly."

The Amendment was read _____
By: Representative Collins
CLR/CLR - 03/23/11 04:23
CLR300

Chief Clerk