

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2013-088

2 State of Arkansas
3 89th General Assembly
4 Regular Session, 2013

As Engrossed: H4/12/13

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1709

5
6 By: Representative Bragg

7 Filed with: Interim House Committee on Education
8 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

For An Act To Be Entitled

9
10 AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO OBTAIN
11 A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; TO ESTABLISH AN ALTERNATIVE
12 HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION *PROGRAM FOCUSED ON A CAREER*
13 *PATH THROUGH VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL TRAINING*; AND FOR
14 OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

15
16
17
18 *TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO*
19 *OBTAIN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; AND TO*
20 *ESTABLISH AN ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL*
21 *COMPLETION PROGRAM FOCUSED ON A CAREER*
22 *PATH THROUGH VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL*
23 *TRAINING.*

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

27
28 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 2, is amended*
29 *to add an additional section to read as follows:*

30 *6-18-231. Career Path Program.*

31 *(a) By July 1, 2014, the Department of Education and the Department of*
32 *Career Education shall develop a Career Path Program for Arkansas public high*
33 *schools.*

34 *(b) The program shall provide a student who is sixteen (16), seventeen*
35 *(17), or eighteen (18) years of age the opportunity to select a career focus*
36 *and complete vocational-technical training that leads to a certificate of*

1 completion in the vocational-technical area of study and a high school
2 diploma.

3 (c) The purpose of the program is to address the educational and
4 career training of students who:

5 (1) May desire a career path other than the traditional
6 enrollment in postsecondary education as a first-time full-time freshman; or

7 (2) Have left high school and want to return to complete their
8 secondary education.

9 (d)(1) When a student enrolls in the program, the school, the Adult
10 Education Section of the Department of Career Education, the student, and the
11 parent jointly shall develop an education plan for the participating student
12 that:

13 (A) Includes learning opportunities, vocational-technical
14 training, tutoring, and mentoring designed to meet the participating
15 student's needs;

16 (B) Includes meetings with a guidance counselor;

17 (C) Is not based entirely on traditional credit-based
18 instruction;

19 (D) May provide for a minimum number of hours of adult
20 education programming based on:

21 (i) The educational needs of the participating
22 student; and

23 (ii) The employment of the student, if applicable;
24 and

25 (E) May include without limitation transitional courses
26 and courses for concurrent credit.

27 (e) In developing the program, the Department of Education and the
28 Department of Career Education may include without limitation:

29 (1) Exempting the student from the compulsory attendance
30 requirements of § 6-18-201 while the student is participating in the program;

31 (2) Providing counseling, mentoring, tutoring, or other support
32 services identified under the student's education plan;

33 (3) Flexibility in the number of instructional hours required to
34 be delivered on a school campus; and

35 (4) An alternative or dual high school diploma.

