

2 State of Arkansas
3 90th General Assembly
4 Regular Session, 2015

A Bill

SENATE BILL 832

5
6 By: Senator L. Chesterfield

7 Filed with: Senate Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs
8 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

For An Act To Be Entitled

9
10 AN ACT TO CREATE A CENTER FOR WORKFORCE INNOVATION
11 AND STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
12 PARTNERSHIPS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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15 TO CREATE A CENTER FOR WORKFORCE
16 INNOVATION AND STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PUBLIC
17 AND PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 60, is amended to add an
24 additional subchapter to read as follows:

25 Subchapter 10 – Arkansas Center for Workforce Innovation and Strategic
26 Economic Public-Private Partnership

27
28 6-60-1001. Findings.

29 The General Assembly finds that the Arkansas workforce education
30 programs should:

31 (1) Include a focus on creating a statewide culture of
32 innovation, entrepreneurial activity, and economic growth;

33 (2) Prepare traditional and nontraditional Arkansas students to
34 fill occupations in existing and emerging industries by strategically
35 aligning business training and academic preparation to respond directly to
36 the needs of employers in this state;

1 (3) Facilitate an accelerated approach to training and a job
2 placement model that significantly increases the chances of graduates moving
3 immediately into the job market; and

4 (4) Respond directly to the needs of employers in this state.

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6 6-60-1002. Workforce Innovation and Strategic Economic Public-Private
7 Partnership.

8 (a)(1) The Workforce Innovation and Strategic Economic Public-Private
9 Partnership is created.

10 (2) The program shall be designed and administered by the
11 Department of Higher Education.

12 (b) The program shall provide grants to an institution of higher
13 education in this state to create and maintain a workforce innovation program
14 that:

15 (1) Identifies and partners with a team of current and former
16 business advisors who are knowledgeable concerning existing and emerging job
17 markets;

18 (2) Focuses on economic growth through the fields of technology,
19 science, healthcare, telecommunications, engineering, clean energy, and
20 financial needs in the community;

21 (3) Provides traditional and nontraditional classes for workers,
22 veterans, single mothers, under-employed citizens, and minorities, as well as
23 individuals from economically depressed areas throughout the state; and

24 (4) Creates a combination of eight-to-twelve-week certificate
25 programs, two-year degree programs, and four-year degree programs to meet the
26 workforce innovation goals of this subchapter.

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28 6-60-1003. Workforce Innovation and Strategic Economic Public Private
29 Partnership program requirements.

30 (a) A program under this subchapter shall:

31 (1) Establish certificate and degree programs to meet the
32 workforce innovation goals of this subchapter;

33 (2) Employ an accelerated training approach; and

34 (3) Create and maintain public-private partnerships with
35 government and business as a component of each program.

36 (b) A certificate program under this subchapter shall include without

1 limitation training for a career as a:

- 2 (1) Customer service representative;
- 3 (2) Financial institution teller;
- 4 (3) Medical assistant;
- 5 (4) Nursing Assistant;
- 6 (5) Occupational Therapist; and
- 7 (6) Technical Service Representative.

8 (c) A two-year degree program under this subchapter shall include
9 without limitation training for a career as a:

- 10 (1) Customer service representative;
- 11 (2) Medical Assistant;
- 12 (3) Nursing Assistant;
- 13 (4) Occupational Therapy;
- 14 (5) Pharmacy Technician;
- 15 (6) Physical Therapist; and
- 16 (7) Technical Service Representative.

17 (d) A four-year degree program under this subchapter shall include
18 without limitation training for a career in:

- 19 (1) Accounting;
- 20 (2) Banking;
- 21 (3) Computer science;
- 22 (4) Laboratory science;
- 23 (5) Network analysis;
- 24 (6) Network engineering;
- 25 (7) Nursing;
- 26 (8) Systems software; and
- 27 (9) Software engineering.

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29 6-60-1004. Department of Higher Education – Grants.

30 (a) The Department of Higher Education shall adopt rules to implement
31 the grant program created in this subchapter.

32 (b) Rules adopted under this subchapter shall require that an
33 application for a grant award under this subchapter shall include without
34 limitation:

35 (1) Research-based analyses of the workforce demand gap
36 priorities for this states; and

1 (2) Methods for creating:

2 (A) Public and private support for the educational and
3 training needs of this state;

4 (B) Opportunities for traditional and nontraditional
5 students to be matched with state employment needs;

6 (C) Training that is directly linked to improving the
7 existing workforce; and

8 (D) Linkage between private industry and higher education
9 in a workable partnership that benefits the economy of this state.

10 (c) The department shall award grants under this section.

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13 Referred by the Arkansas Senate

14 Prepared by: VJF

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