

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

1132

By: Representatives McGinnis, Matthews, Mahony and Pollan

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS SECTIONS OF TITLE 6, CHAPTER 61 OF THE ARKANSAS CODE OF 1987 TO GRANT THE STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION POWER TO ASSIST THE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 6-61-207 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"6-61-207. (a) In order to promote a coordinated system of higher education in Arkansas and to assure an orderly and effective development of each of the publicly supported institutions of higher education, the board shall have the power and duty to establish, in consultation with college and university personnel, appropriate role and scope designations within which Boards of Trustees must operate the institution or institutions under their jurisdiction.

(b) The board shall establish such role and scope designations by January 1, 1990. The designations may be changed at any time as determined by the board. They shall be fully reviewed at least once every five (5) years.

(c) Prior to their establishment or making changes in role and scope designations, the board shall carefully study the change in consultation with institutional personnel, announce the intent to consider a change, and publicly reveal the change that is being proposed at a regular quarterly meeting with vote to come no sooner than the next regular quarterly meeting."

SECTION 2: Arkansas Code 6-61-208 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"6-61-208. New units of instruction, research, and public service.

(a) (1) In order to promote a coordinated system of higher education in Arkansas and to assure an orderly and effective development of each of the

publicly supported institutions of higher education, the board shall have the power and duty to request, receive, evaluate and approve proposals for all new units of instruction, research, and public service, consistent with established role and scope designations which have been approved by the board of trustees and the president of an institution, and to determine, based upon established policies, whether new units of instruction, research, or public service are justified.

(2) (A) 'Established policies' as used in this subsection means a written statement developed by the board in consultation with and upon the advice of representatives of each of the state's institutions of higher learning which shall set forth the relevant criteria which a proposal for a new unit of instruction must meet before its establishment by an institution is justified.

(B) The term 'new unit of instruction, research, or public service' used in this subsection includes establishment of a college, school, division, institute, center, department, new curricula, or majors leading to a new degree program or an extension service not presently included in the program of the institution. The term does not include reasonable and moderate extensions, as defined by the board, of existing curricular research or public service programs which have a direct relationship to existing programs at the several public institutions of higher learning.

(b) General revenues appropriated by the General Assembly shall not be expended for new programs that have not been recommended by the board."

SECTION 3: Arkansas Code 6-61-214 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"6-61-214. (a) In order to promote a coordinated system of higher education in Arkansas and to assure an orderly and effective development of each of the publicly supported institutions of higher education, the board shall have the power and duty to establish minimum standards of quality and cost effectiveness, and review each existing academic degree program in the state institutions of higher education at least every ten (10) years, but no more frequently than every seven (7) years.

(b) Such programs shall either be certified as having met established standards or placed on two-year probationary status. During the probationary period, at the request of the institution, the board shall provide guidance to the institutions in an attempt to qualify the programs to meet the minimum

standards for quality and cost effectiveness.

(c) At the end of the two-year period, the board shall make recommendations to the institutions, the Governor, and the General Assembly concerning the continuation or termination or extended probation of the program.

(d) General revenues shall not be expended for operation of degree programs beyond the deadline set by the board without the specific approval of the General Assembly. The deadline shall coincide with the end of the biennium."

SECTION 4. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 5. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.