

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

1134

By: Representatives McGinnis, Thicksten, Northcutt and Stephens

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO SUPPORT ACADEMIC COURSES OFFERED BY PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AT OFF-CAMPUS LOCATIONS FOR THE BIENNIAL PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1991; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. The percentage of Arkansans pursuing post-secondary education at two year and four year institutions of higher education is significantly below the national average for college attendance. The future economic growth and development of Arkansas will be enhanced by having a higher percentage of Arkansans who have completed two year or four year post-secondary degree programs. Providing increased access to post-secondary education courses will increase the number of individuals who can pursue post-secondary training.

With funds appropriated by this Act, the Department of Higher Education shall provide funds to support academic courses offered at off-campus locations by two year and four year public institutions of higher education. In implementing the program authorized by this Act, the State Board of Higher Education should consult with the State Board for Vocational and Technical Education to utilize, where appropriate, post-secondary vocational-technical schools as centers for off-campus instruction offered by two year and four year institutions of higher education.

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATIONS. There is hereby appropriated to the Department of Higher Education, to be payable from the Department of Higher Education Fund account, for off campus personal services, operating expenses, and grants of the Department of Higher Education for the biennial period

ending June 30, 1991, the following:

ITEM NO.		FISCAL YEARS	
		1989-90	1990-91
01	Off-Campus Instruction	\$500,000	\$500,000

SECTION 3. TRANSFER AUTHORITY. Upon certification by the Director of the Department of Higher Education to the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, funds and appropriations provided in Section 2 of this Act may be transferred to institutions of higher education to support the provision of academic courses at off-campus locations. The State Board of Higher Education shall develop rules and regulations for distribution and use of the funds appropriated in this Act.

SECTION 4. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds authorized by this Act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and the restrictions of the State Purchasing Law, the General Accounting and Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

SECTION 5. 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 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 7. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is hereby found and determined by the Seventy-Seventh General Assembly that the State of Arkansas ranks well below the national average in the percentage of Arkansans pursuing post-secondary education, a factor which will act to suppress the future economic growth and development of Arkansas. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist

and this Act being necessary for the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 1989.