

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

1146

By: Representatives Stephens and McGinnis

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO COLLECT AND REPORT RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED AT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES; TO INCLUDE RATES FOR STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Accurate information about the retention and graduation rates of students at state-supported colleges and universities is needed in order for the State Board of Higher Education, institutional boards of trustees, the General Assembly, and institutional faculty members and administrators to make informed decisions related to the coordination, governance, financing, and academic policies of higher education in Arkansas. Special attention to the retention and graduation rates of students who participate in intercollegiate athletics is needed because the percentage of student athletes who graduate is lower than for students who do not participate in athletics at many institutions throughout the nation.

SECTION 2. (a) The Arkansas Department of Higher Education shall collect information as to the retention and graduation rates of students at state-supported colleges and universities and report the findings to the State Board of Higher Education, the Governor, the Joint Interim Committee on Education of the Arkansas General Assembly, and the colleges and universities by December 15th of each year, beginning in 1991.

(b) In addition to retention and graduation rates for all students, the reports shall also include the retention and graduation rates of all students who participate in intercollegiate athletics.

(c) Officials of state colleges and universities shall provide to the

Department of Higher Education by October 15th of each year the information requested by the Department.

(d) The State Board of Higher Education is hereby authorized to promulgate rules and regulations consistent with the intent and purpose of this act.

SECTION 3. 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 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly that current guidelines regarding the developing and reporting of accurate information in relation to the retention and graduation rates of students and student athletes attending state-supported institutions of higher education are inconsistent and inadequate and informed decisions regarding coordination, governance, financing, and academic policies of higher education would be significantly aided by the adoption of the provisions of this Act. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.