

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

1235

By: Representatives Arnold and Schexnayder

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE ARKANSAS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AUTHORITY TO CREATE THE CENTERS FOR APPLIED TECHNOLOGY
PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Centers for Applied Technology

(a) In order to encourage greater collaboration between private enterprises and Arkansas colleges and universities in the development and application of new technologies, the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority is authorized to designate technological areas as having significant potential for economic growth in Arkansas, or in which the application of new technologies could significantly enhance the productivity and stability of Arkansas enterprises.

SECTION 2. The Arkansas Science and Technology Authority shall:

(a) Identify technological areas for which Centers should be designated, including but not limited to, technological areas that are related to enterprises with significant potential for economic growth and development in Arkansas and areas that are related to the enhancement of productivity in various enterprises in Arkansas.

(b) establish, in consultation with the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, criteria that must be satisfied for designation as a Center, including but not limited to:

(1) an established record of research, development, and instruction in the area of technology,

(2) the capacity to conduct research and development activities in collaboration with private enterprises,

(3) the capacity to secure substantial private and other government funding for the proposed center,

(4) the ability and willingness to cooperate with other colleges and universities in conducting research and development activities, and in disseminating research results and to work with institutions of higher learning to enhance the quality of technological education in the area or areas of technology involved, and

(5) the ability and willingness to cooperate with the Authority, the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission, and other economic development agencies in promoting the growth and development in Arkansas of enterprises based upon or benefitting from the areas of technology involved.

(c) designate, using a competitive selection process, those Centers for Applied Technology to be created in cooperation with colleges and universities in the State.

SECTION 3. Any monies lawfully available to the Authority for the purpose of creating Centers for Applied Technology may be used for the purchase of equipment and fixtures, employment of faculty and support staff, provision of graduate fellowships, and other purposes approved by the Authority, but may not be used for capital construction.

SECTION 4. For the purposes of this Act, "Center for Applied Technology" or "Center" shall mean a college or university or university-affiliated unit, or a consortium of such units, which conducts a continuing program of basic and applied research, development, and technology transfer in one or more technological areas, in collaboration with and through the support of private enterprises.

SECTION 5. Board Functions and Membership

(a) In carrying out its functions under this Act, the Board may create such advisory committees as may be useful in evaluating potential technological areas and Centers.

(b) The memberships of these advisory committees may include both Directors and staff members of the Authority, and other persons drawn from sources other than the Authority, all of whom shall serve at the pleasure of the Board.

(c) Members of such advisory committees shall serve without compensation for their membership on such committees, but shall be reimbursed for any reasonable expenses incurred by them in the performance of duties assigned by

the Board.

SECTION 6. The Authority may not designate technological areas or establish Centers prior to the Board's adopting rules to govern the program authorized under this Act.

SECTION 7. 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 8. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 9. Emergency Clause. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly that the economy of the State of Arkansas is suppressed in many areas creating a lack of business opportunities and promoting unemployment. The provisions of this Act are necessary to help promote economic stability and productivity. Therefore, an emergency is 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.