

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

1770

By: Representatives Jones, McCuiston, Lendall

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE OF 1987, TITLE 6, CHAPTER 61,  
TO ENCOURAGE THE MERGER OF VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS WITH  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES; TO AUTHORIZE THE CONVERSION OF  
VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS TO TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGES;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code of 1987, Title 6, Chapter 61, is hereby amended by adding a new subchapter to read as follows:

"6-61-901. The purpose of this subchapter is to encourage the restructuring of post-secondary educational opportunities for all state residents by authorizing, through a vote of the electorate, the merger of vocational-technical schools and community colleges located in close proximity to each other and the conversion of vocational-technical schools to technical community colleges.

6-61-902. (a) The local community college board, with the approval of the State Community College Board, may refer to the qualified electors of the district in which the community college is located, the issue of merger of the community college with any vocational-technical school located in close proximity of the community college and any additional millage not to exceed ten (10) mills to be considered.

(b) The State Community College Board shall specify the wording of the ballot to be used for the election to merge the vocational-technical school with the community college and collect any additional local tax.

(c) The election shall be conducted by the county board of election commissioners in the manner provided by law for special elections.

6-61-903. (a) If a majority of the qualified electors of the district voting thereon at such election shall vote FOR the merger of the vocational-technical school with the community college, title to the lands in the district belonging to the State Board of Vocational Education and used for the operation of the vocational-technical school is transferred to and shall become the property of the board of trustees of the community college district to be used in connection with the vocational-technical programs and educational programs of the technical community college.

(b) If a majority of the qualified electors of the district voting thereon at such election shall vote FOR the merger of the vocational-technical school with the community college, all properties, furniture, equipment and funds provided for the operation of the vocational-technical school shall become available to the community college district to be used in the operation of a vocational-technical program by the community college.

6-61-904. Upon the request of a citizens' group seeking the conversion of a vocational-technical school to a technical community college, the State Community College Board shall assist in the study of the proposed district to determine whether formation would meet the requirements of the laws of this state governing the creation and operation of community colleges and the criteria established by the State Community College Board for the formation of the district.

6-61-905. (a) Upon certification of the State Community College Board that the conversion of the vocational-technical school to a technical community college is feasible and would conform to the requirements of the laws of this state and the Board's criteria, qualified electors of the proposed district may, by petition filed with the Secretary of State, have an election called to determine whether to convert the vocational-technical school to a technical community college and form a community college district and collect a local tax in accordance with Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 52.

(b) The State Community College Board shall specify the wording of the ballot to be used for conversion of the vocational-technical school to a technical community college and creation of a community college district under this subchapter.

6-61-906. (a) If a majority of the qualified electors of the proposed district voting thereon at the election vote FOR the conversion of the vocational-technical school to a technical community college and the creation of a community college district, title to the lands in the district belonging to the State Board of Vocational Education and used for the operation of the vocational-technical school is transferred to and shall become the property of the board of trustees of the community college district to be used in connection with the vocational-technical programs and educational programs of the technical community college.

(b) If a majority of the qualified electors of the proposed district voting thereon at the election vote FOR the conversion of the vocational-technical school to a technical community college and the creation of a community college district, all properties, furniture, equipment and funds provided for the operation of the vocational-technical school shall become available to the community college district to be used in the operation of a vocational-technical program by the community college.

6-61-907. The provisions of this subchapter shall be cumulative to the laws of this state governing the creation and operation of community colleges and vocational-technical school programs operated by community colleges.

6-61-908. Any community college established under the provisions of this subchapter shall bear the name: '\_\_\_\_\_ Technical Community College.'

6-61-909. Any community college established under the provisions of this subchapter shall be operated as a comprehensive institution providing community college and vocational-technical instruction and programs in the same manner as provided by law as other community colleges of this state under the jurisdiction of the State Community College Board."

SECTION 2. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

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.