

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill

SENATE BILL

405

By: Senator Gordon

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN INTERIM TECHNICAL COLLEGE BOARD; TO AUTHORIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE OR MORE TECHNICAL COLLEGES; TO AUTHORIZE USE OF PROPERTIES BELONGING TO ANY EXISTING VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL AND MONIES APPROPRIATED TO ANY SAID SCHOOL TO OPERATE A PILOT PROGRAM TO ESTABLISH A TECHNICAL COLLEGE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. The purpose of this act is to establish authority in appropriate officials of the State of Arkansas to take the necessary steps for the establishment of a pilot project to study the feasibility of converting vocational-technical schools into two-year technical colleges offering career specific curriculum including but not limited to associate degrees in applied technology.

SECTION 2. The provisions of this act 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.

SECTION 3. (a) There is hereby established an interim State Technical College Board.

(b) The State Technical College Board shall be comprised of the following members:

(1) Two members of the State Community College Board appointed by the chairman of that board;

(2) Two members from the State Vocational Education Board appointed by the chairman of that board;

(3) One member from the Arkansas Senate to be appointed by the

President Pro Tempore;

(4) One member from the Arkansas House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker;

(5) One member appointed by the Governor who shall serve as chairman of the board.

(c) Members of the interim board shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to per diem and mileage allowances for attendance at board meetings at the same rate as authorized by law for payment for their attendance at meetings of their representative boards or for legislative members for attendance of joint interim committees of the General Assembly. The chairman shall be entitled to reimbursement for expenses at the same rate as authorized by law for travel by state employees.

SECTION 4. (a) The interim State Technical College Board shall study the feasibility of converting one or more vocational technical schools into two-year technical colleges offering career specific curriculum including both not limited to associate degrees in applied technology.

(b) Prior to July 1, 1989, the interim board shall meet and designate one or more vocational technical schools as a pilot technical college under this act.

(c) The board is hereby authorized to expend funds from the Pilot Technical College Fund as established herein to enhance the curriculum at the designated pilot school to implement interim establishment of a technical college.

(d) Any school converted under the provisions of this act shall be governed by the interim State Technical College Board.

(e) All lands belonging to the State Board of Vocational-Technical Education and used for the operation of the vocational-technical school designated for the pilot program shall be available for use by the technical college established under the provisions of this act.

(f) All properties, furniture, equipment and funds provided for the operation of the vocational-technical school shall be available for use by the technical college established under the provision of this act for operation of the pilot program.

SECTION 5. Not later than January 1, 1991, the interim Technical College

Board shall submit a final report to the State Community College Board, State Board of Vocational-Technical Education and the Arkansas General Assembly, containing specific recommendations concerning the following areas:

- (a) The advisability of the continuation of the designated pilot school as a technical college.
- (b) The creation of additional technical colleges.
- (c) Funding sources including local millages for technical colleges.
- (d) Governance of technical colleges.
- (e) Transferability of college course credit from technical colleges to institutions of higher education.
- (f) Accreditation of technical colleges.
- (g) Comparative faculty salaries.

SECTION 6. There is hereby established on the books of the State Treasurer, State Auditor and Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, a fund to be known as the "Pilot Technical College Fund" to contain such general revenues as may be appropriated by the General Assembly, together with any federal funds that may be available for such purpose, to convert one or more vocational-technical schools to technical colleges.

SECTION 7. The provisions of this act shall expire on July 1, 1991.

SECTION 8. 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 9. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.