

1 State of Arkansas
2 80th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1995
4 By: Representative Baker

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1910

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS EXISTING WORKFORCE TRAINING
9 PROGRAM SO AS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR
10 COMPANIES LOCATED IN ARKANSAS TO UPGRADE THE SKILLS OF THE
11 EXISTING WORKFORCE AND TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF
12 STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS TO SUPPLY THE ON-GOING
13 TRAINING NEEDS OF ARKANSAS COMPANIES; TO DECLARE AN
14 EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

17 "THE ARKANSAS EXISTING WORKFORCE
18 TRAINING ACT OF 1995"

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

22 SECTION 1. This Act may be referred to and cited as the Arkansas
23 Existing Workforce Training Act of 1995.

25 SECTION 2. As used in this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

26 (1) "Governing council" means the directors, or their designees, of
27 the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission, the Arkansas Department of
28 Higher Education, and the Vocational and Technical Education Division of the
29 Arkansas Department of Education;

30 (2) "Company" means an entity currently operating in the state that
31 has filed a corporate income tax return prior to 1995 and is classified in
32 SIC 20-39;

33 (3) "Eligible recipient" means a full-time permanent employee of an
34 Arkansas company who is subject to the Arkansas personal income tax; and

35 (4) "Basic skills training" means those math, reading, English,

1 communication (listening, oral, and written), and computer literacy skills
2 that a person can reasonably be expected to have attained by the end of the
3 twelfth grade.

4
5 SECTION 3. (a) There is hereby created the Arkansas Existing
6 Workforce Training Program to be administered by a governing council
7 comprised of equal representation from the Arkansas Department of Higher
8 Education, the Vocational and Technical Education Division of the Arkansas
9 Department of Education, and the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission.

10 (b)(1) The primary purpose of the Arkansas Existing Workforce Training
11 Program shall be to provide financial assistance to Arkansas business and
12 industry for upgrading the skills of the existing workforce.

13 (2) Secondary objectives include, but are not limited to the
14 following:

15 (A) To increase the capacity of state-supported
16 institutions to supply the on-going training needs of Arkansas companies;

17 (B) To increase company participation in the Arkansas
18 School-To-Work Initiative.

19
20 SECTION 4. The governing council shall promulgate rules and
21 regulations in accord with the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act,
22 § 25-15-201 et seq., for the implementation of this Act by the Arkansas
23 Industrial Development Commission. Such rules and regulations shall include
24 but not be limited to the following:

25 (1) A company shall provide a valid training plan to the governing
26 council;

27 (2) A company's match requirement shall be determined by the governing
28 council and set forth in writing prior to any funds being committed and
29 distributed;

30 (3) Training shall meet specific business goals and performance
31 objectives;

32 (4) As part of the application process, a company shall be responsible
33 for determining that participants involved in the training program possess
34 the appropriate prerequisite literacy skills;

35 (5) Grant funds shall not be used for any training, including remedial

1 basic skills training, that is authorized under any other state or federal
2 program.

3

4 SECTION 5. (a) The Arkansas Existing Workforce Training Program shall
5 provide matching funds to companies in a percentage to be determined by the
6 governing council. Uses for such funds shall include, but not be limited to,
7 costs for instruction, materials, and supplies.

8 (b) Funds to state-supported institutions for training may be used to
9 develop curriculum, for class preparation, and, if approved by the governing
10 council, to upgrade the skills of regular or adjunct faculty.

11

12 SECTION 6. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent
13 nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas
14 Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

15

16 SECTION 7. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
17 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
18 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
19 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
20 act are declared to be severable.

21

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

24

25 SECTION 9. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the
26 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the training needs of the
27 existing and future workforce of this state is critical to economic
28 development and expansion of job opportunities and that any delay in the
29 effective date of this act could work irreparable harm upon the proper
30 administration and provision of such training and to the agencies charged
31 with implementation of this Act. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared
32 to exist and this Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the
33 public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and
34 after the date of its passage and approval.

35

1
2
3