

Stricken language would be deleted from present law. Underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas
2 81st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1997

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2068

4
5 By: Representative Thicksten
6 By: Senator Harriman

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH WESTARK COMMUNITY COLLEGE AS A UNIQUE
10 COMMUNITY COLLEGE ; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

13 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH WESTARK COMMUNITY
14 COLLEGE AS A UNIQUE COMMUNITY COLLEGE ."

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

18 SECTION 1. In order to encourage the redesign of higher education in
19 arkansas, Westark Community College is hereby established as a "unique
20 community college," a community college that predominantly offers one and two-
21 year certificate and associate degrees and which also is authorized to offer
22 selected baccalaureate degrees.

24 SECTION 2. The primary purpose of the General Assembly in establishing
25 Westark Community College as a unique community college is to allow Westark to
26 serve as the states model for a "new college" which includes a curriculum
27 which shortens the learning cycle for a baccalaureate degree from the national
28 average of more than five (5) years to three (3) years and which reexamines
29 and realigns instructional systems, schedules, and processes in order to meet
30 the needs of an information and technology-driven era. It is the intent of
31 the General Assembly to limit the designation "unique community college" to
32 Westark because of its location in the heart of the states largest
33 manufacturing center, its enrollment of over 3,000 full-time equivalent
34 students, and its local millage rate of 5.25 to support the college.

36 SECTION 3. Westark Community College is authorized to offer a

1 baccalaureate degree program in Manufacturing Technology and other selected
2 baccalaureate degree programs, not to exceed a total of nine (9) in number.
3 Each baccalaureate degree program offered by Westark must meet a demonstrated
4 demand of the area and industries served by the college and be designed for
5 completion in less than four (4) years. After the first graduating class,
6 baccalaureate programs that have a job placement rate or graduation rate of
7 fewer than nine (9) students per year for three (3) consecutive years will be
8 dropped. The preponderance of degrees offered by Westark (seventy-five
9 percent (75%) or more) shall be one-semester certificates of proficiency, one-
10 year technical certificates, and two-year associate of applied science and
11 arts degrees. Westark may continue to contract with other colleges and
12 universities for the offering of courses and programs through the Westark
13 University Center which was approved by the Arkansas General Assembly with the
14 enactment of Act 259 of 1989.

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16 SECTION 4. Westark shall seek a systemic change in the current higher
17 education model by realigning its programs to a model that meets the needs of
18 an information and technology-driven era. Each educational program offered by
19 Westark, whether certificate, associate, or bachelors degree, will have
20 clearly defined expectations of learners in terms of knowledge, skills,
21 competencies and capacities for further learning. Certification of mastery,
22 competency and demonstrated capacities for individual graduates to "customer"
23 standards will be required, as opposed to outcomes measured solely by number
24 of courses taken, "seat time," and grade point average. Students will be
25 actively involved in the learning process, with curriculum designed around
26 fewer lectures and more responsibility placed on the learner and groups of
27 learners.

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29 SECTION 5. Westark is hereby authorized to experiment with and utilize
30 employment models other than tenure to accommodate the development and
31 delivery of curriculum, such as the employment of new faculty on a twelve-
32 month, forty-hour week basis, with rewards for administrative staff and
33 faculty based upon results.

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35 SECTION 6. Westark Community College shall continue to be governed by
36 the Board of Trustees of the Sebastian Community Junior College District,

1 utilizing the administrative staff and support services of Westark Community
2 College.

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4 SECTION 7. Westark Community Colleges participation in intercollegiate
5 athletic programs shall continue to be limited to basketball, volleyball, and
6 spring sports.

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8 SECTION 8. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
9 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
10 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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12 SECTION 9. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
13 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
14 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
15 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
16 act are declared to be severable.

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18 SECTION 10. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
19 hereby repealed.

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