1	State of Arkansas	As Engrossed: S3/18/97 S3/24/97			
2	81st General Assembly	A Bill			
3	Regular Session, 1997		SENATE BILL	609	
4					
5	By: Senator Hopkins				
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7					
8	For An Act To Be Entitled				
9	"AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM IN POSTSECONDARY				
10	EDUCATION FOR THE BLIND; TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROGRAM SHALL				
11	EXPIRE IN FOUR YEARS UNLESS EXTENDED BY AN ACT OF THE				
12	GENERAL ASS	EMBLY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."			
13					
14					
15		Subtitle			
16	•	AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM IN			
17	I	POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FOR THE BLIND;			
18	1	O PROVIDE THAT THE PROGRAM SHALL EXPIRE			
19	]	N FOUR YEARS UNLESS EXTENDED BY AN ACT			
20	(	OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY."			
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23	BE IT ENACTED BY T	HE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSA	AS:		
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25	SECTION 1.	This act provides for the establishment of	a pilot progr	<u>am</u>	
26	in postsecondary education for the blind. The provisions of this act shall			<u>1</u>	
27	expire on July 1,	2001 unless extended by an act of the Gener	cal Assembly.		
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29	SECTION 2.	(a) There is created the Arkansas Board for	or Postseconda	<u>ry</u>	
30	Education for the	Blind.			
31	(b)(1) The	members of the board shall be appointed by	the Governor	<u>as</u>	
32	follows:				
33		(A) Two (2) members shall be persons cert	ified or degre	<u>ed</u>	
34	in the education of children who are visually impaired;				
35		(B) One (1) member shall be a person who	is legally bli	<u>nd;</u>	
36		(C) One (1) member shall be the parent of	a legally bli	nd	

- 1 child; and
- 2 (D) One (1) member shall be appointed from the general
- 3 public.
- 4 (2) Appointments shall be made so that no more than two (2)
- 5 members of the board shall reside in the same congressional district.
- 6 (3) The racial make-up of the board should reflect the racial
- 7 population of the state as accurately as possible.
- 8 (c) The members of the board shall serve for terms of five (5) years.
- 9 The initial appointees shall determine their terms by lot so that the term of
- 10 one (1) member shall expire each year.
- 11 (d) The members of the board shall annually elect a chairperson.
- 12 (e) Meetings of the board shall be held during evening hours or on
- 13 Saturdays. At least twenty (20) minutes shall be reserved at the end of each
- 14 board meeting for members of the public to address the board.
- 15 (f) Each member of the board may receive expense reimbursement in
- 16 accordance with  $^{\circ}$  25-16-901 et seq.

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- 18 SECTION 3. (a) There is created the Arkansas Postsecondary Educational
- 19 Institution for the Blind.
- 20 (b) The institution shall be an institution of higher learning serving
- 21 students of at least eighteen (18) years of age but less than twenty-five (25)
- 22 years of age. The institution shall serve as a college
- 23 preparatory/transitional program for students who are legally blind or
- 24 graduated from or are above the age to be served by the Arkansas School for
- 25 the Blind or public school.
- 26 (c) The institution shall provide education services through a
- 27 cooperative venture with one (1) or more institutions of higher education.
- 28 (d) The educational program of the institution shall not duplicate any
- 29 social, rehabilitative, or educational programs for the blind that are in
- 30 existence in the state on the effective date of this act.

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- 32 SECTION 4. (a) Arkansas Board for Postsecondary Education for the Blind
- 33 <u>may:</u>
- 34 (1) Enter into cooperative ventures with one (1) or more
- 35 institutions of higher education for the provision of facilities, equipment,
- 36 and staff necessary for the institution; and

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1	(2) Accept donations, gifts, and contributions in money,
2	services, materials, or otherwise from any source and use or expend such
3	moneys, services, materials, or other contributions in carrying on its
4	operations, and accept appropriations from the state upon such terms and
5	conditions as may be imposed by law to be used in the furtherance of this act.
6	(b) Arkansas Board for Postsecondary Education for the Blind shall:
7	(1) Consult with the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for
8	the Blind and the Arkansas School for the Deaf concerning the types of special
9	needs of blind students who graduate from the Arkansas School for the Blind
10	and who seek to further their education; and
11	(2) Report to the General Assembly prior to each regular session
12	of the General Assembly.
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L 4	SECTION 5. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
15	are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
16	Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.
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18	SECTION 6. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
19	any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
20	other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
21	the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
22	act are declared to be severable.
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24	SECTION 7. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
25	hereby repealed.
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27	/s/Hopkins
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