

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 83rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2001

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1282

4  
5 By: Representative Seawel  
6 By: Senator Wooldridge

## For An Act To Be Entitled

7  
8  
9  
10 AN ACT TO REPEAL TITLE 6, CHAPTER 51, SUBCHAPTER 10  
11 AND OTHER PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO THE MODEL  
12 VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER; AND  
13 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

14  
15  
16 AN ACT TO REPEAL TITLE 6, CHAPTER 51,  
17 SUBCHAPTER 10 AND OTHER PROVISIONS  
18 PERTAINING TO THE MODEL VOCATIONAL-  
19 TECHNICAL EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER.

20  
21  
22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

23  
24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 51, Subchapter 10 is  
25 repealed.

26 ~~6-51-1001. Title.~~

27 ~~The title of this subchapter shall be the "Model Vocational-Technical~~  
28 ~~Education Resource Center Act of 1993".~~

29  
30 ~~6-51-1002. Definition.~~

31 ~~For the purpose of this subchapter, "resource center" means the~~  
32 ~~Vocational-Technical Education Resource Center created by this subchapter.~~

33  
34 ~~6-51-1003. Resource center established - Functions.~~

35 ~~(a)(1) There is established a model resource center for a system of~~  
36 ~~multi-county vocational-technical education services.~~

1           ~~(2) The resource center shall be an intermediate service unit in~~  
2 ~~the state's vocational technical education system for public schools and other~~  
3 ~~vocational, technical, or adult programs in the state and, as such, shall be~~  
4 ~~eligible to receive and expend funds from state and federal governments,~~  
5 ~~school districts, and other public or private sources.~~

6           ~~(b) The resource center established by this subchapter will provide to~~  
7 ~~school districts and other vocational, technical, or adult programs which~~  
8 ~~choose to use them assistance in:~~

9                   ~~(1) Meeting or exceeding accreditation standards and equalizing~~  
10 ~~vocational technical educational opportunities;~~

11                   ~~(2) Using vocational technical educational resources more~~  
12 ~~effectively through cooperation; and~~

13                   ~~(3) Promoting coordination of vocational and technical programs~~  
14 ~~and services.~~

15  
16           ~~6-51-1004. Board of directors.~~

17           ~~(a)(1) Beginning August 1, 1997, the resource center shall be governed~~  
18 ~~by a board of directors consisting of seven (7) members who are representative~~  
19 ~~of the following groups:~~

20                   ~~(A) Educational institutions, including those which focus~~  
21 ~~on vocational and technical education;~~

22                   ~~(B) Business and industry;~~

23                   ~~(C) Parents;~~

24                   ~~(D) Community organizations; and~~

25                   ~~(E) Retired educators.~~

26           ~~(2) At the first meeting of the board, the seven (7) positions~~  
27 ~~shall be filled by those persons who served as board members immediately prior~~  
28 ~~to August 1, 1997, with any vacancies thereafter filled by a majority vote of~~  
29 ~~the remaining board members of the resource center.~~

30           ~~(b) The board of directors of the resource center shall function as a~~  
31 ~~public corporate body, shall meet at least four (4) times each year, and shall~~  
32 ~~exercise general fiduciary responsibilities for the resource center with~~  
33 ~~regard to policies and practices which guard the integrity of the center and~~  
34 ~~maintain public trust in its operation.~~

35           ~~(c) The responsibilities of the board, consistent with funds available,~~  
36 ~~shall include, but not be limited to:~~

1           ~~(1) Establishing policies and procedures for the operation and~~  
2 ~~management of the resource center, which shall be in written form and shall be~~  
3 ~~filled with the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities;~~

4           ~~(2) Preparing an annual budget estimating income and expenditures~~  
5 ~~for programs and services in accordance with procedures approved by the state~~  
6 ~~board;~~

7           ~~(3) Receiving and expending funds needed to provide programs and~~  
8 ~~services in the area;~~

9           ~~(4) Renting, leasing, or receiving by gift such facilities and~~  
10 ~~buildings as may be required to provide authorized programs and services;~~

11           ~~(5)(A) Making surveys or other inquiries as may be required to~~  
12 ~~determine the service needs of school districts, of other vocational,~~  
13 ~~technical, or adult programs, and of business and industry in the area served~~  
14 ~~by the resource center; and~~

15                   ~~(B) Developing plans to provide such needed services;~~

16           ~~(6) Cooperating with school districts, with other vocational,~~  
17 ~~technical, or adult programs, with business and industry, and with other~~  
18 ~~agencies to provide programs and services for children and adults residing~~  
19 ~~within the areas;~~

20           ~~(7) Employing a director of the resource center, who shall serve~~  
21 ~~as the nonvoting executive officer of the board of directors;~~

22           ~~(8) Employing, upon the recommendations of the director of the~~  
23 ~~resource center, of such personnel as may be required to provide the services~~  
24 ~~requested in the area; and~~

25           ~~(9) Carrying out such other duties as may be required for the~~  
26 ~~efficient operation of the resource center for which the board is responsible.~~

27           ~~(d) The board of directors may petition the state board to establish a~~  
28 ~~vocational and technical center which will provide, consistent with funds~~  
29 ~~available, vocational and technical education opportunities to students.~~

30  
31           ~~6-51-1005. Policies and procedures—Expenditures, reports, and audits.~~

32           ~~(a)(1) In consultation with the State Board of Workforce Education and~~  
33 ~~Career Opportunities, the policies and procedures and a strategic plan for the~~  
34 ~~operation of the resource center shall be developed and filed with the board~~  
35 ~~prior to the opening of the center.~~

36           ~~(2) These documents shall be updated annually and filed with the~~

1 ~~board on or before June 1 of each year.~~

2 ~~(b)(1) Reports of receipts and expenditures shall also be filed with~~  
3 ~~the board on forms provided and time schedules set by the Director of the~~  
4 ~~Department of Workforce Education.~~

5 ~~(2) Expenditures shall be reported in accordance with uniform~~  
6 ~~accounting procedures adopted by the Department of Workforce Education.~~

7 ~~(c) The resource center shall be subject to annual audits by the~~  
8 ~~Division of Legislative Audit.~~

9

10 ~~6-51-1006. Programs and services.~~

11 ~~(a) The programs and services of the resource center shall be based~~  
12 ~~upon the needs of the school districts and of other vocational, technical, or~~  
13 ~~adult programs included in its service area and upon the educational~~  
14 ~~priorities of the state.~~

15 ~~(b) The resource center may provide vocational technical educational~~  
16 ~~programs and services which the State Board of Workforce Education and Career~~  
17 ~~Opportunities may approve or which school districts or other vocational,~~  
18 ~~technical, or adult programs may support with local funds.~~

19

20 ~~6-51-1007. Participation of local school districts—Contracts.~~

21 ~~(a) No school district or other vocational, technical, or adult program~~  
22 ~~shall be required to participate in any service.~~

23 ~~(b) School districts and other vocational, technical, or adult programs~~  
24 ~~may enter into contracts with the resource center for services supported~~  
25 ~~partially or completely by funds of the school district or of other~~  
26 ~~vocational, technical, or adult programs.~~

27

28 ~~6-51-1008. Funding of resource center.~~

29 ~~(a) As a public agency, the resource center shall be eligible to~~  
30 ~~receive and expend public and private funds.~~

31 ~~(b) School districts and other vocational, technical, or adult programs~~  
32 ~~may contract with the resource center for services and part-time personnel to~~  
33 ~~be supported in whole or in part by local funds, but no school district or~~  
34 ~~other vocational, technical, or adult program shall be assessed a membership~~  
35 ~~fee.~~

36 ~~(c) Categorical state or federal funds may be assigned to the resource~~

1 center upon approval of its board of directors and under conditions set by the  
2 State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities or the State Board  
3 of Education.

4  
5 ~~6-51-1009. Personnel generally.~~

6 ~~(a) Personnel of the resource center shall be employed in accordance~~  
7 ~~with laws, rules, regulations, and procedures applicable to the school~~  
8 ~~districts of this state.~~

9 ~~(b)(1) Certificate requirements shall be the same as those expected of~~  
10 ~~persons holding similar positions in local school districts.~~

11 ~~(2) However, the Director of the Department of Workforce~~  
12 ~~Education may grant a waiver from this subsection (b) in exceptional~~  
13 ~~circumstances.~~

14 ~~(c) Termination or contract nonrenewal of resource center personnel~~  
15 ~~shall be as provided by law for school district personnel.~~

16  
17 ~~6-51-1010. Agency personnel.~~

18 ~~With the approval of the board of directors of the resource center, the~~  
19 ~~Director of the Department of Workforce Education and the Director of the~~  
20 ~~Department of Education may assign Department of Education personnel to the~~  
21 ~~resource center.~~

22  
23 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code 19-5-304(2)(A) is amended to read as follows:

24 (2)(A) Department of Workforce Education Fund Account. The  
25 Department of Workforce Education Fund Account shall be used to provide  
26 support for those programs placed under the direction of the Director of the  
27 Department of Workforce Education as authorized by §§ 6-11-101, 6-11-102, and  
28 25-6-101 - 25-6-103 and Acts 1981, No. 64, § 4, and any other laws imposing  
29 functions, powers, and duties upon the State Board of Workforce Education and  
30 Career Opportunities, including, but not necessarily limited to, the  
31 following:

32 (i) Vocational, technical, and adult education;

33 (ii) Adult basic education;

34 ~~(iii) Operations of the Arkansas Education Service~~  
35 ~~Center at Black Rock;~~

36 ~~(iv)~~(iii) Manpower training;

1                   ~~(v)~~(iv) Vocational standards;  
2                   ~~(vi)~~(v) Industry training programs; and  
3                   ~~(vii)~~(vi) Those functions, programs, and  
4 responsibilities transferred to the Department of Workforce Education as  
5 authorized by these statutes.

6  
7           SECTION 3. Arkansas Code 29-3-106 is repealed.

8           ~~29-3-106. North East Arkansas Educational Cooperative Region Secondary~~  
9 ~~vocational center.~~

10           ~~In the event a secondary vocational center is established in the North~~  
11 ~~East Arkansas Educational Cooperative Region, the center shall be funded in~~  
12 ~~the same manner as all other vocational centers, as authorized by law, and~~  
13 ~~operated by the Model Vocational Technical Education Resource Center.~~

14  
15           SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General  
16 Assembly that questions have arisen regarding the use of funds by the Model  
17 Vocational -Technical Education Resource Center; that it is currently operating  
18 without an approved budget, and its existence is preventing the proper use of  
19 resources which are needed to provide appropriate educational opportunities  
20 for the children of this state. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist  
21 and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public  
22 peace, health and safety shall become effective on June 30, 2001.

23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36