

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 *As Engrossed: S3/13/01 S3/26/01 S3/29/01*

2 83rd General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2001

SENATE BILL 551

4

5 By: Senators Bisbee, Mahony, Brown, Riggs, Hoofman

6 By: *Representatives Hausam, Bradford, Carson, Magnus, Bright, Salmon, Womack, Scroggin,*

7 *Cleveland, Allison, Minton, T. Steele, Files, Bledsoe, Gillespie, Holt, Stovall, Pritchard*

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For An Act To Be Entitled

11 AN ACT TO CLOSE THE GAP IN FUNDING FOR TWO-YEAR
12 COLLEGES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

13

14

Subtitle

15 AN ACT TO CLOSE THE GAP IN FUNDING FOR
16 TWO-YEAR COLLEGES.

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

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21 SECTION 1. Legislative findings.

22 (a)(1) The General Assembly finds that educational opportunities
23 offered by the two-year colleges of this state are varied and are most often
24 best secured by allowing the administrators of the state-wide network of two-
25 year colleges to self-monitor.

26 (2) The General Assembly recognizes that there are differences
27 in the operations and funding needs of the various two-year colleges
28 throughout the state.

29 (b) The General Assembly also finds that the current system of funding
30 the state's two-year colleges has created inequities in the level of programs
31 and services available to the students throughout the state; and it is
32 further determined that the two-year colleges have been unable to voluntarily
33 close the gap in funding per full-time equivalent student.

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35 SECTION 2. Definitions.

36 For purposes of this act:

1 (1)(A) "New funding" means all state funding received by two-year
2 colleges in a fiscal year that exceeds the total state funding received by
3 two-years colleges in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001;

4 (B) "New funding" shall not include capital improvement funding;

5 (2) "Highest funded average" means the average of the funding for the
6 three (3) two-year colleges with the highest funding per full-time equivalent
7 student in the preceding fiscal year; and

8 (3) "Underfunded two-year college" means all two-year colleges that
9 received, in the preceding fiscal year, an amount of funding that is less
10 than sixty-five percent (65%) of highest funded average.

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12 SECTION 3. Equalized funding for two-year colleges.

13 (a) Beginning on July 1, 2002, fifty percent (50%) of all new funding
14 shall be divided equally per full-time equivalent student among all
15 underfunded two-year colleges.

16 (b) Each year thereafter, fifty percent (50%) of any new funding shall
17 be divided as set forth in subsection (a) of this section, until there is no
18 underfunded two-year college.

19 (c) Any two-year college that receives an amount of funding equal to
20 or exceeding sixty-five percent (65%) of the highest funded average shall no
21 longer participate in the distribution of increased funding as set forth in
22 subsection (a), regardless of the institution's past participation in the
23 increased funding allocation.

24 (d) The money received by a two-year college under subsection (a) of
25 this section, shall not cause any two-year college to receive an amount of
26 funding per full-time equivalent student which exceeds sixty-five percent
27 (65%) of the funding of the highest funded average.

28 (e) If every two-year college receives funding equal to or exceeding
29 sixty-five percent (65%) of the highest funded average in the same fiscal
30 year, the funding of the two-year colleges shall be as determined by the
31 Department of Higher Education, Governor, and General Assembly, but shall
32 never be in a manner that would create a difference in funding exceeding
33 sixty-five percent (65%) or more of the funding per full-time equivalent
34 student between the two-year colleges with the lowest and highest per full-
35 time equivalent student.

36 (f) In order to carry out the provisions of this act, the chief fiscal

1 officer of the state and the office of the State Treasurer shall promulgate
2 the necessary rules, regulations, and procedures as may be required.

3 /s/ *Bisbee*

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