

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 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2540

4
5 By: Representative M. Martin
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO INCLUDE PARTIES INTERESTED IN SCIENCE,
10 MATHEMATICS, AND TECHNOLOGY ON THE ARKANSAS
11 COMMISSION FOR COORDINATION OF EDUCATIONAL
12 EFFORTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
13

Subtitle

14
15 AN ACT TO INCLUDE PARTIES INTERESTED IN
16 SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, AND TECHNOLOGY ON
17 THE ARKANSAS COMMISSION FOR COORDINATION
18 OF EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS.
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20

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-1-301 is amended to read as follows:

24 6-1-301. Arkansas Commission for Coordination of Educational Efforts.

25 (a) There is created the "Arkansas Commission for Coordination of
26 Educational Efforts".

27 (b) The commission is composed of the following members:

28 (1) The Director of the Department of Higher Education;

29 (2) The Director of the Department of Education;

30 (3) The Director of the Department of Workforce Education;

31 (4) The Director of the Division of Child Care and Early
32 Childhood Education of the Department of Human Services or the director's
33 designee;

34 (5) The Director of the Department of Economic Development;

35 (6) The Vice President for Agriculture of the University of
36 Arkansas System;



1 (7) The President of the Arkansas Science and Technology
 2 Authority;

3 (8) The Executive Chief Information Officer;

4 ~~(7)~~(9) The Governor or the Governor's designee;

5 ~~(8)~~(10) One (1) public school administrator appointed by the
 6 Governor;

7 ~~(9)~~(11) One (1) public school teacher appointed by the Governor;

8 ~~(10)~~(12) One (1) president or chancellor of a four-year
 9 university appointed by the Presidents Council;

10 ~~(11)~~(13) One (1) president or chancellor of a two-year college
 11 or two-year branch of a four-year university appointed by the council;

12 ~~(12)~~(14) One (1) member of the board of trustees of a four-year
 13 university or system of colleges and universities appointed by the council;

14 ~~(13)~~(15) One (1) member of the board of trustees of a two-year
 15 college or branch appointed by the council;

16 ~~(14)~~(16) One (1) member appointed by the President Pro Tempore
 17 of the Senate from a list of three (3) nominees submitted by the Executive
 18 Director of the Arkansas Education Association;

19 ~~(15)~~(17) One (1) member appointed by the Speaker of the House of
 20 Representatives from a list of three (3) nominees submitted by the Executive
 21 Director of the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators;

22 ~~(16)~~ (18) One (1) member appointed jointly by the Speaker of the
 23 House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate from a list of three (3)
 24 nominees submitted by the Executive Director of the Arkansas School Boards
 25 Association; and

26 ~~(17)~~(19) One (1) representative of a predominantly black college
 27 or university in Arkansas appointed by the Speaker of the House of
 28 Representatives.

29 (c)(1) Each member of the commission shall be a resident of the State
 30 of Arkansas throughout his or her term on the commission.

31 (2) None of the members appointed from the board of trustees of
 32 a college or university shall be from an institution from which the president
 33 or chancellor of the institution is serving on the commission.

34 (d) The appointed members of the commission shall serve staggered
 35 terms of four (4) years.

36 (e) If a vacancy occurs in an appointed position, the vacancy shall be

1 filled for the unexpired term by an appointment made in the same manner as
2 the original appointment.

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4 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-1-303 is amended to read as follows:

5 6-1-303. Duties.

6 (a) The Arkansas Commission for Coordination of Educational Efforts
7 shall study and recommend policies related to the improvement of coordination
8 among and between the levels of education from pre-kindergarten to the
9 graduate level.

10 (b)(1) The commission shall give priority to improvements benefiting
11 students at all levels of education in Arkansas.

12 (2) The commission shall work to benefit the State of Arkansas
13 and improve the economy of the state by recommending a more efficient system
14 of education.

15 (c) The commission shall:

16 (1) Recommend policies on concurrent enrollment of high school
17 students in college courses;

18 (2) Make recommendations related to a common calendar for all
19 public schools and institutions of higher education;

20 (3) Study the various delivery systems of distance learning and
21 recommend ways to improve and make more efficient a delivery system for
22 Arkansas;

23 (4) Recommend ways that the public schools, the Department of
24 Education, the Department of Higher Education, and the institutions of higher
25 education can improve working relationships in order to improve the
26 effectiveness of teaching for the public schools;

27 (5)(A) Recommend ways of improving the transfer of credit from
28 institution to institution for the benefit of the student.

29 (B) The transfer of credit includes recommendations for
30 improving the transfer from two-year institutions to four-year institutions
31 as well as the transfer among two-year institutions and four-year
32 institutions;

33 (6) Make recommendations related to aligning the curriculum from
34 kindergarten through the bachelor's level in colleges and universities;

35 (7) Recommend ways of improving the link between educational
36 efforts and economic development for Arkansas;

- 1 (8) Recommend priorities for the funding of education;
- 2 (9) Review all current scholarship programs of the state and
- 3 institutions of higher education and make recommendations for improving
- 4 future scholarship programs;
- 5 (10) Make recommendations related to the future need for
- 6 remediation of beginning college students; ~~and~~
- 7 (11) Make recommendations to improve science, technology,
- 8 engineering, and mathematics education from kindergarten through the
- 9 bachelor's level in higher education;
- 10 (12) Make recommendations to improve the use of educational
- 11 technology; and
- 12 ~~(11)~~(13) Recommend any other improvements in education at any
- 13 level to benefit students and the state.

15 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-11-124 is amended to read as follows:
 16 6-11-124. Statewide computer network.

17 (a) Acts 1991, No. 1034, authorizes the Board of Trustees of the
 18 Arkansas Teacher Retirement System to provide a loan to the Department of
 19 Education for a statewide computer system capable of linking all public
 20 school systems and the department. In order to provide alternatives to
 21 accomplish the purposes of Acts 1991, No. 1034, the department is hereby
 22 authorized to enter into a contractual agreement with IMPAC Learning Systems,
 23 Inc. for the development of a statewide computer system capable of linking
 24 all public school systems and the department from funds provided by a loan
 25 from the system.

26 (b) The State Board of Education shall maintain oversight authority
 27 over the approval of all standards, procedures, and specifications determined
 28 by the department regarding the purchase or lease of the statewide computer
 29 network in addition to maintaining oversight authority over the operational
 30 aspects of the system.

31 ~~(c)(1)(A) As a means of providing assistance to, and coordination of~~
 32 ~~efforts between the department, the Department of Information Systems, users~~
 33 ~~of the statewide computer network, and other educational technology~~
 34 ~~applications, there is hereby created the Public Education Technology~~
 35 ~~Advisory Board, which shall consist of nine (9) members as follows:~~

36 ~~(i) The President of the Arkansas Science and~~

1 ~~Technology Authority;~~

2 ~~(ii) The Director of the Department of Information~~
 3 ~~Systems;~~

4 ~~(iii) The Director of the Department of Education;~~

5 ~~(iv) Three (3) citizens of the State of Arkansas who~~
 6 ~~are knowledgeable in the various aspects of educational finance who shall be~~
 7 ~~appointed by the Governor from a list of names submitted by the Arkansas~~
 8 ~~Association of Educational Administrators. They shall serve three year terms;~~
 9 ~~and~~

10 ~~(v) Three (3) members appointed by the Governor from~~
 11 ~~a list of names submitted by the association who are knowledgeable in the~~
 12 ~~various aspects of the student and instruction application. They shall serve~~
 13 ~~three year terms.~~

14 ~~(B) The members of the board shall serve without pay and~~
 15 ~~shall represent the needs and interests of citizens and users of educational~~
 16 ~~technology.~~

17 ~~(C) The president shall be designated as chairman of the~~
 18 ~~board.~~

19 ~~(D) The board shall be convened at the call of the chair.~~

20 ~~(E) The Department of Education and the Department of~~
 21 ~~Information Systems shall provide appropriate staff support.~~

22 ~~(2)(A) The board may create such advisory committees as it deems~~
 23 ~~necessary to assist it in carrying out its functions. The memberships of~~
 24 ~~these advisory committees may include members of the board and other persons~~
 25 ~~drawn from various sources, all of whom shall serve at the pleasure of the~~
 26 ~~board.~~

27 ~~(B) Members of the advisory committees shall serve without~~
 28 ~~compensation for their membership on the committees.~~

29 ~~(3) The board shall issue an annual report on the condition of~~
 30 ~~educational technology in Arkansas to the Governor, the Joint Committee on~~
 31 ~~Advanced Communications and Information Technology, and the Joint Interim~~
 32 ~~Oversight Subcommittee on Educational Reform.~~

33 ~~(d)(c)~~ The director is hereby authorized to request from the Chief
 34 Fiscal Officer of the State a transfer of appropriation authorized for school
 35 district management and statewide data collection by the General Assembly to
 36 any other line item appropriation authorized for the department for the same

1 purpose.

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3 SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the

4 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that there needs to be better

5 coordination among educational entities in the state; that it is imperative

6 to include science, mathematics, and technology interests in the coordination

7 efforts; and that this act is immediately necessary because the Arkansas

8 Commission for Coordination of Educational Efforts is in the process of

9 developing recommendations for improvements in education in the state.

10 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately

11 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall

12 become effective on:

13 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

14 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,

15 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the

16 bill; or

17 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is

18 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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