

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 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 997

5 By: Senators Altes, B. Johnson, Argue, Broadway, Bryles
6 By: Representatives Dickinson, Abernathy, Allen, Berry, Cooper, Davenport, Dunn, L. Evans, Everett,
7 George, Jeffrey, Kenney, Lowery, Medley, Norton, Reep, Rosenbaum, Sample, L. Smith, Wills
8
9

For An Act To Be Entitled

11 AN ACT TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY
12 CREATING A SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND
13 MATH FUND TO INCREASE THE STATE'S ABILITY TO
14 COMPETE FOR JOBS IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY; AND
15 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
16

Subtitle

18 AN ACT TO CREATE A SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,
19 ENGINEERING, AND MATH FUND.
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21

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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24 SECTION 1. NOT TO BE CODIFIED. Legislative intent.

25 The General Assembly finds:

26 (1) Achievement and enthusiasm of Arkansas students in the areas
27 of science, technology, engineering, and math is a critical step in preparing
28 the State of Arkansas for a workforce with the skills necessary to compete
29 economically in the twenty-first century workplace and to prepare the
30 children of this state for high-paying competitive jobs;

31 (2) Currently more than fifty percent (50%) of Arkansas students
32 who go straight to college require remedial courses in both math and english;

33 (3) In fiscal year 2003-2004, Arkansas expended over forty-eight
34 million dollars (\$48,000,000) on student remediation;

35 (4) In 2005, of the five thousand four hundred thirty-four
36 (5,434) students that took math and science Advanced Placement (AP) courses,



1 only twenty-six and six-tenths percent (26.6%) of those students received a
2 passing score while nationally, passage rates ranged between fifty-six
3 percent (56%) for chemistry to eighty percent (80%) for calculus;

4 (5) Students completion of high school math courses beyond
5 Algebra II significantly increases the probability that the student will earn
6 a bachelor's degree;

7 (6) Approximately four thousand (4,000) of the seven thousand
8 four hundred thirty-three (7,433) certified teachers in Arkansas are actively
9 teaching science, technology, engineering, and math-related courses and may
10 qualify for the science, technology, engineering, and math supplemental
11 income grant; and

12 (7) Because of the significant difference in income between
13 science, technology, engineering, and math teachers and what they can make in
14 industry, it is essential to:

15 (A) Reduce the loss of science, technology, engineering,
16 and math teachers to industry;

17 (B) Entice science, technology, engineering, and math
18 teachers back to the classroom; and

19 (C) Encourage students to enter the science, technology,
20 engineering, and math teaching professions by supplying supplemental grant
21 income to science, technology, engineering, and math teachers.

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23 SECTION 2. Creation of fund.

24 (a) There is created the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
25 Fund.

26 (b) The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Fund is established
27 for the purpose of retaining, recruiting, and attracting competent science,
28 technology, engineering, and math teachers by providing industry-competitive
29 income to certified, qualified teachers who teach science, technology,
30 engineering, and math subjects.

31 (c) The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Fund shall be a
32 miscellaneous fund whose balance shall not be reclaimed at the end of the
33 biennium but shall be carried forward for the same use in subsequent years.

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35 SECTION 3. Determination of eligibility.

36 (a) The Arkansas Department of Economic Development, in coordination

1 with the Department of Education, shall promulgate rules governing the
 2 eligibility of teachers of science, technology, engineering, or math to
 3 receive a supplemental grant from the Science, Technology, Engineering, and
 4 Math Fund.

5 (b) Rules shall be promulgated in accordance with the Arkansas
 6 Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.

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 8 SECTION 4. Application process.

9 (a) Certified math and science teachers who are currently teaching
 10 science, technology, engineering, and math subjects in kindergarten through
 11 grade twelve (K-12) may apply to the Arkansas Department of Economic
 12 Development for a supplemental grant from the Science, Technology,
 13 Engineering, and Math Fund for that portion of the day in which they are
 14 teaching science, technology, engineering, or math subjects or laboratories.

15 (b) Selection and identification of qualified science, technology,
 16 engineering, and math teachers shall be coordinated with the Department of
 17 Education for identification of qualified science, technology, engineering,
 18 and math teachers.

19 (c) Applications for supplemental grants from the Science, Technology,
 20 Engineering, and Math Fund shall be made to the Arkansas Department of
 21 Economic Development by February 1 and September 1 of each year.

22 (d) The application shall be made on forms prepared by the Arkansas
 23 Department of Economic Development.

24 (e) The application shall be accompanied by a letter of certification,
 25 on a form to be provided by the Arkansas Department of Economic Development,
 26 from the principal of the school in which the science, technology,
 27 engineering, or math teacher is employed.

28 (f) The Arkansas Department of Economic Development shall review the
 29 applications in accordance with rules promulgated by the Arkansas Department
 30 of Economic Development in coordination with the Department of Education to
 31 determine if the applicant qualifies for a supplemental grant from the
 32 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Fund.

33 (g) After determining eligibility for a supplemental grant from the
 34 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Fund, the department shall notify,
 35 in writing, the applicant of the decision of eligibility.

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SECTION 5. Disbursement of supplemental grant.

Upon the determination of eligibility for a supplemental grant from the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Fund, the Arkansas Department of Economic Development shall disburse the allotted funds to the teacher at the end of the fall and spring semesters for which the science, technology, engineering, or math course was taught.

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