

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 87th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2009  
4

As Engrossed: H4/3/09  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1797

5 By: Representative English  
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**For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY  
10 WORKFORCE SYSTEM TASK FORCE; AND FOR OTHER  
11 PURPOSES.  
12  
13

**Subtitle**

15 TO CREATE THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY  
16 WORKFORCE SYSTEM TASK FORCE.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 *SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Findings.*

22 *The Task Force for the 21st Century and the Arkansas Economic*  
23 *Development Commission strategic plan identify an educated and skilled*  
24 *workforce as a critical requirement for optimal economic development*  
25 *opportunities for Arkansas. To accomplish this goal it is necessary to*  
26 *develop a workforce system that ensures all federal and state education and*  
27 *workforce training resources are used to ensure that the state is responding*  
28 *to the workforce skill demands of Arkansas businesses and industries for the*  
29 *twenty-first century.*  
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31 *SECTION 2. Task Force – Membership.*

32 *(a) There is created the Twenty-first Century Workforce System Task*  
33 *Force to consist of:*

34 *(1) Three (3) members of the House of Representatives appointed*  
35 *by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;*

36 *(2) Three (3) members of the Senate appointed by the President*



1 Pro Tempore of the Senate; and

2 (3)(A) Eight (8) members to be selected from a list of at least  
3 twenty (20) names submitted by the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce from  
4 the following industries:

5 (i) Energy;

6 (ii) Manufacturing;

7 (iii) Agriculture;

8 (iv) Knowledge-based companies;

9 (v) Healthcare;

10 (vi) Transportation;

11 (vii) Construction; and

12 (viii) Another industry involved in employing a  
13 skilled workforce.

14 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the  
15 President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall each select (4) persons from the  
16 list submitted by the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce.

17 (b) The following persons shall be nonvoting members of the task  
18 force:

19 (1) The Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission  
20 or his or her designee;

21 (2) The President of the Arkansas Science and Technology  
22 Authority or his or her designee;

23 (3) The Director of the Department of Higher Education or his or  
24 her designee;

25 (4) The Director of the Department of Workforce Services or his  
26 or her designee;

27 (5) The Director of the Department of Workforce Education or his  
28 or her designee;

29 (6) The Commissioner of the Department of Education or his or  
30 her designee; and

31 (7) The Director of the Department of Human Services or his or  
32 her designee.

33 (c)(1) The members of the task force shall be appointed by June 30,  
34 2009.

35 (2) The first meeting shall be called by July 31, 2009.

36 (d)(1) Members of the task force shall serve at the pleasure of their

1 appointing authorities.

2 (2) A vacancy on the task force shall be filled by the original  
3 appointing authority.

4 (e)(1) The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President  
5 Pro Tempore of the Senate shall each designate a cochair from among the  
6 members of the task force.

7 (2) The cochairs shall jointly call the first meeting of the  
8 task force.

9 (f) A majority vote of the members present is required for an action  
10 of the task force.

11 (g) The Arkansas Economic Development Commission and the Bureau of  
12 Legislative Research shall provide staff support to the task force as  
13 necessary to assist the task force in the performance of its duties.

14 (h) Legislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed for  
15 expenses and per diem at the same rate and from the same source as provided  
16 by law for members of the General Assembly attending meetings of the interim  
17 committees.

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19 **SECTION 3. Duties.**

20 The task force shall identify:

21 (1) All state and federal funding for education, workforce  
22 training, and employment programs;

23 (2) State and federally funded program goals and outcomes;

24 (3) Potential duplication of programs;

25 (4) Industry skill gaps;

26 (5) The organizational structure necessary for an efficient and  
27 effective twenty-first century workforce system; and

28 (6) Other items necessary to ensure the success of the state's  
29 workforce training programs.

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31 **SECTION 4. Reports.**

32 (a) The task force shall present a report of assessments and  
33 recommendations for meeting the workforce needs in the State of Arkansas to  
34 the:

35 (1) The House and Senate Interim Committees on:

36 (A) Education; and

- 1                    (B) Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development;
- 2                    (2) Governor;
- 3                    (3) Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 4                    (4) President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and
- 5                    (5) Legislative Council.
- 6                    (b) The report shall be submitted on or before October 25, 2010.

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SECTION 5. The task force shall expire on December 1, 2010.

/s/ English