

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1962

4
5 By: Representatives Wills, Ragland, Abernathy, Allen, T. Baker, Barnett, Davenport, J. Dickinson,
6 Dismang, Dunn, J. Edwards, George, Hoyt, Lindsey, M. Martin, Maxwell, Reep, Reynolds, Wells,
7 Williams, Word

8 By: Senators Capps, B. Johnson, Altes, G. Baker, Bookout, Broadway, Bryles, Elliott, D. Johnson, J.
9 Key, Luker, Madison, P. Malone, Salmon, R. Thompson, Trusty, Whitaker

For An Act To Be Entitled

10
11
12 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A POST-DOCTORAL SCIENCE AND
13 ENGINEERING GRANT PROGRAM FOR PURPOSES OF
14 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND KNOWLEDGE-BASED JOB
15 GROWTH; TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR THE
16 DISBURSEMENT OF GRANTS FROM THE PROGRAM; TO
17 DESIGNATE THE ARKANSAS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
18 AUTHORITY AS THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE PROGRAM;
19 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
20

Subtitle

21
22 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A POST-DOCTORAL
23 SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING GRANT PROGRAM.
24

25
26
27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

28
29 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 15, Chapter 3 is amended to add an
30 additional subchapter to read as follows:

31 15-3-401. Legislative intent.

32 (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly:

33 (1) To assist growing, technology-based enterprises by:

34 (A) Attracting and retaining highly-trained science and
35 engineering post-doctoral graduates by encouraging the establishment of
36 career opportunities within the State of Arkansas;



1 (B) Providing scientific expertise to emerging technology-
 2 based enterprises by helping them hire post-doctoral graduates to address the
 3 needs of these businesses; and

4 (C) Developing a growing core of scientific job talent in
 5 Arkansas by attracting and retaining post-doctoral science and engineering
 6 graduates; and

7 (2) That the establishment of the Post-Doctoral Science and
 8 Engineering Grant Program shall benefit the State of Arkansas as a whole and
 9 that provisions be made to ensure that all parts of the state have an
 10 opportunity to benefit from this subchapter.

11
 12 15-3-402. Application for funding.

13 (a) The Arkansas Science and Technology Authority shall make available
 14 forms upon which a business eligible for a grant under § 15-3-403 may apply
 15 for a grant to support the hiring of post-doctoral science and engineering
 16 graduates to work in areas of their expertise in Arkansas.

17 (b) Within thirty (30) days of the receipt of an application, the
 18 Arkansas Science and Technology Authority shall notify the applicant whether:

19 (1) The applicant meets the criteria for benefits; and

20 (2) Funds are available to assist the business in the hiring of
 21 post-doctoral science and engineering graduates.

22
 23 15-3-403. Eligibility for grants.

24 To qualify for a grant authorized under § 15-3-404, a business shall:

25 (1) Have operations within the State of Arkansas that are in one
 26 (1) of the six (6) categories of targeted businesses identified in § 15-4-
 27 2703(43)(A);

28 (2) Pay average hourly wages in excess of one hundred and ten
 29 percent (110%) of the county or state average hourly wage, whichever is less;

30 (3) Agree to hire a post-doctoral graduate; and

31 (4) Provide proof that the post-doctoral graduate is an Arkansas
 32 taxpayer and a resident of the State of Arkansas.

33
 34 15-3-404. Authorization of grants.

35 (a) If an applicant meets the requirements of § 15-3-403, the applicant
 36 shall be placed in one (1) of the following four (4) levels and be eligible

1 for a grant for up to five (5) years:

2 (1)(A) An eligible business with a payroll in excess of ten
3 million dollars (\$10,000,000) is eligible to receive a grant of up to thirty-
4 five thousand dollars (\$35,000) over the five-year period.

5 (B) If approved, the business will receive:

6 (i) Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in year one (1);

7 (ii) Ten thousand dollars (10,000) in year two (2);

8 (iii) Seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500)

9 in year three (3);

10 (iv) Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in year four

11 (4); and

12 (v) Two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) in

13 year five (5).

14 (2)(A) An eligible business with a payroll in excess of five
15 million dollars (\$5,000,000) but no more than ten million dollars
16 (\$10,000,000) may be eligible to receive a grant of up to fifty-two thousand
17 five hundred dollars (\$52,500) over the five-year year period.

18 (B) If approved, the business will receive:

19 (i) Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) in year one
20 (1);

21 (ii) Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) in year two
22 (2);

23 (iii) Eleven thousand two hundred fifty dollars
24 (\$11,250) in year three (3);

25 (iv) Seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) in
26 year four (4); and

27 (v) Three thousand seven hundred fifty dollars
28 (\$3,750) in year five (5).

29 (3)(A) An eligible business with a payroll in excess of at least
30 one million dollars (\$1,000,000) but no more than five million dollars
31 (\$5,000,000) may be eligible to receive a grant of up to seventy thousand
32 dollars (\$70,000) over the five-year period.

33 (B) If approved; the business will receive:

34 (i) Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) in year one
35 (1);

36 (ii) Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) in year two

1 (2);

2 (iii) Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) in year
3 three (3);

4 (iv) Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in year four
5 (4); and

6 (v) Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in year five (5).

7 (4)(A) An eligible business with a payroll of less than one
8 million dollars (\$1,000,000) may be eligible to receive a grant of up to
9 eighty-seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$87,500) over the five-year
10 period.

11 (B) If approved, the business will receive:

12 (i) Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) in year
13 one (1);

14 (ii) Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) in year
15 two (2);

16 (iii) Eighteen thousand seven hundred fifty dollars
17 (\$18,750) in year three (3);

18 (iv) Twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$12,500)
19 in year four (4); and

20 (v) Six thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$6,250)
21 in year five (5).

22 (b) The grants authorized by this section shall be administered and
23 paid according to rules established by the Arkansas Science and Technology
24 Authority.

25 (c) The authority shall not provide further grant funds to the
26 approved business if at any time during the five-year grant period the post-
27 doctoral graduate is no longer employed in Arkansas by the approved business.

28

29 15-3-405. Rules.

30 (a) The Arkansas Science and Technology Authority, through the
31 promulgation of rules in accordance with the Arkansas Administrative
32 Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq., shall establish procedures, consistent
33 with this subchapter, to carry out the intent of this legislation.

34 (b) The authority shall establish by rule opportunities for assisting
35 in the hiring of post-doctoral graduates in each of the four (4)
36 congressional districts in the state.