

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
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As Engrossed: S3/12/13

A Bill

SENATE BILL 816

By: Senators Elliott, J. Key

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE VISION 2025 LEGISLATIVE
COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION; TO
PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ITS MEMBERS; TO
DESCRIBE ITS PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH THE VISION 2025 LEGISLATIVE
COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF HIGHER
EDUCATION; TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT
OF ITS MEMBERS; AND TO DESCRIBE ITS
PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

This act shall be known as the "Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on
the Future of Higher Education".

SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Creation.

(a) There is created the Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the
Future of Higher Education.

(b) The Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher
Education shall consist of the following twenty-four (24) members:

(1) The Governor or the Governor's designee;

(2) The Chair of the House Committee on Education or the chair's
designee;



1 (3) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Education or the
2 chair's designee;

3 (4) The Vice-chair of the House Committee on Education;

4 (5) The Vice-chair of the Senate Committee on Education;

5 (6) The Chair of the Higher Education Subcommittee of the
6 Legislative Council or the chair's designee;

7 (7) The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's
8 designee;

9 (8) The Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission
10 or the director's designee;

11 (9) The Director of the Department of Career Education or the
12 director's designee;

13 (10) The Director of the Department of Higher Education or the
14 director's designee;

15 (11) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Association of Two-
16 Year Colleges or the executive director's designee;

17 (12) A university president or chancellor appointed by the
18 Governor;

19 (13) A representative from the Arkansas Association of
20 Independent Colleges and Universities;

21 (14) A representative from a historically minority serving
22 university or college in the state, appointed by the Governor;

23 (15) A representative from the Arkansas State Chamber of
24 Commerce;

25 (16) A representative from the membership of a labor union
26 appointed by the Governor;

27 (17) A representative from the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation;

28 (18) A representative from the Arkansas Advocates for Children
29 and Families;

30 (19) Three (3) representatives from the community at large
31 appointed by the Governor, such as students, parents, and grandparents with
32 an interest in higher education; and

33 (20) Three (3) representatives that reflect the demographics of
34 the state appointed by the Governor.

35 (c)(1) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Education or the chair's
36 designee shall call the first meeting of the Vision 2025 Commission on the

1 Future of Higher Education within thirty (30) days of the effective date of
2 this act and shall serve as the chair at the first meeting.

3 (2) At the first meeting of the Vision 2025 Legislative
4 Commission on the Future of Higher Education, the Vision 2025 Legislative
5 Commission on the Future of Higher Education members shall elect a chair from
6 its legislative membership.

7 (3)(A) The Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of
8 Higher Education shall conduct its meetings in Pulaski County at the State
9 Capitol or other locations in the state as determined by the chair.

10 (B) At least one (1) meeting shall be held every three (3)
11 months but may occur more often as determined by the chair.

12 (d) If a vacancy occurs on the Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on
13 the Future of Higher Education, the vacancy shall be filled by the same
14 process as the original appointment.

15 (e) The Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher
16 Education shall establish rules and procedures for conducting the business of
17 the Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education.

18 (f) Members of the Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of
19 Higher Education shall serve without compensation but may receive
20 reimbursement according to § 25-16-902.

21 (g) The Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher
22 Education may expend funds and resources in carrying out the commission's
23 purpose and responsibilities that are appropriated and funded to the
24 commission by the General Assembly.

25 (h) A majority of the members of the Vision 2025 Legislative
26 Commission on the Future of Higher Education shall constitute a quorum for
27 transacting business of the Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future
28 of Higher Education.

29 (i) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff for the
30 Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education.

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32 SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Purpose and responsibilities.

33 (a)(1) The Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher
34 Education shall study, research, and brainstorm ways in which higher
35 education can transform and positively impact the state by 2025 and beyond
36 2025.

1 (2) As a part of the commission's duty to study, research, and
2 brainstorm ways in which higher education can transform and positively impact
3 the state, the commission shall:

4 (A) Explore what is required to:

5 (i) Create a culture of college success as
6 fundamental expectation for all students; and

7 (ii) Reach the Governor's 2025 goal of the number of
8 Arkansans with a degree or certificate from an institution of higher
9 education;

10 (B) Identify the role that higher education plays in:

11 (i) Improving the quality of life for all Arkansans;
12 and

13 (ii) Contributing to economic opportunity and
14 expansion;

15 (C) Study barriers that impede access to higher education
16 and ways to remove them, including without limitation;

17 (i) The cost of tuition, fees, and room and board;

18 (ii) Scholarship and grant funding availability; and

19 (iii) Affordability, including ways to promote and
20 encourage families to save for college; and

21 (D) Identify how research opportunities can aid the state
22 in achieving and surpassing the Governor's 2025 goals and beyond, including
23 the identification of clear strategies to attract research opportunities to
24 the state.

25 (b)(1) The commission shall develop a progress report and a final
26 report that includes a set of recommendations for the General Assembly that
27 will detail the work of the commission required under subsection (a) of this
28 section.

29 (2)(A) The commission shall present the progress report and the
30 final report to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the
31 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the House Committee on Agriculture,
32 Forestry, and Economic Development, the Senate Committee on Agriculture,
33 Forestry, and Economic Development, and the public.

34 (B) The progress report is due no later than November 1,
35 2014 and the final report is due not later than November 1, 2018.

SECTION 4. DO NOT CODIFY. Expiration of the Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education.

The Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education shall cease to exist on January 1, 2019.

/s/Elliott