

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015

A Bill

SENATE BILL 154

4
5 By: Senator D. Johnson
6 By: Representative Lowery

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH ADULT EDUCATION CHARTER SCHOOLS;
10 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

13 TO ESTABLISH ADULT EDUCATION CHARTER
14 SCHOOLS.

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

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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 50, is amended to add an
21 additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 8 – Adult Education Charter School

6-50-801. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter:

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27 (1) "Adult education charter school" means a charter school for
28 individuals at least nineteen (19) years of age and not more than fifty-four
29 (54) years of age that offers a high school diploma program and an industry
30 certification program simultaneously to students;

31 (2) "Application" means the proposal for obtaining adult
32 education charter school status; and

33 (3) "Eligible entity" means:

34 (A) A public institution of higher education;

35 (B) A private nonsectarian institution of higher
36 education;



1 (C) A governmental entity; or

2 (D) An organization that:

3 (i) Is nonsectarian in its program, admissions
4 policies, employment practices, and operations; and

5 (ii) Has tax exempt status under § 501(c)(3) of the
6 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. § 501.

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8 6-50-802. Application for adult education charter school.

9 (a) A nonprofit entity may apply to the Department of Career Education
10 for adult education charter school status for an adult education program that
11 offers a curriculum that culminates in:

12 (1) A high school diploma; and

13 (2) Industry certification.

14 (b) An eligible entity's application for an adult education charter
15 school shall include without limitation a:

16 (1) History of the eligible entity's success in providing
17 education services, including industry certifications and job placement
18 services, to adults whose educational and training opportunities have been
19 limited by educational disadvantages, disabilities, homelessness, criminal
20 history, or similar circumstances;

21 (2) Pledge to commit at least one million dollars (\$1,000,000),
22 directly or in-kind, to the adult education charter school if the charter is
23 granted;

24 (3) Description of any partnership with a state-supported two-
25 year institution of higher education, if anticipated;

26 (4)(A) Description of testimony from a public hearing in the
27 community where the adult education charter school is planned.

28 (B) Notice of the public hearing shall be published in a
29 newspaper having general circulation in the community where the adult
30 education charter school is planned at least three (3) weeks before the date
31 of the public hearing;

32 (5) Comprehensive plan for meeting the industry needs for a
33 sufficiently trained workforce in the state;

34 (6) Strategy for engaging the community, including business
35 leaders, in carrying out the goals and objectives of the adult education
36 charter school;

1 (7) Description of the proposed performance criteria that will
2 be used during the initial five-year period of the charter to measure the
3 progress of the adult education charter school in meeting the industry needs
4 for a sufficiently trained workforce in the state; and

5 (8) List of any specific state laws or rules of the department
6 from which the adult education public charter seeks to be exempt, with an
7 explanation of why the exemption is needed.

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9 6-50-803. Authorization for adult education public charter.

10 The Department of Career Education shall review the application for an
11 adult education public charter school and may approve an application that:

12 (1) Provides an acceptable plan for meeting the industry needs
13 for a sufficiently trained workforce in the state;

14 (2) Includes a set of performance criteria objectives for the
15 terms of the charter and the means for measuring the performance criteria
16 objectives on a yearly basis that is acceptable to the department;

17 (3) Includes a comprehensive strategy for engaging the
18 community, including business leaders, in the process of meeting the goals
19 and objectives of the charter; and

20 (4) Includes an agreement to provide an annual report to the
21 community that indicates the progress made by the adult education charter
22 school in meeting the performance criteria objectives during the previous
23 year.

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25 6-50-804. Resubmission of applications.

26 (a) The Department of Career Education may allow an applicant to
27 resubmit the application for an adult education charter school if the
28 original application was, in the opinion of the department, deficient in one
29 (1) or more respects.

30 (b) The department may provide technical assistance to the adult
31 education charter school applicant in the creation or modification of its
32 application.

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34 6-50-805. Enrollment in an adult education charter school.

35 (a) An approved adult education charter school shall have an
36 enrollment cap of no more than three hundred fifty (350) students.

1 (b) A person who is at least nineteen (19) years of age and no more
2 than fifty-four (54) years of age may enroll in an adult education charter
3 school if the person has not:

4 (1) Earned a high school diploma or a high school equivalency
5 certificate; and

6 (2) Completed the requirements for high school graduation.

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8 6-50-806. Charter renewal.

9 The Department of Career Education may renew the charter of an adult
10 education charter school on a one-year or multiyear basis.

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12 6-50-807. Reporting.

13 The Department of Career Education shall report to the Senate Committee
14 on Education and the House Committee on Education by December 1 each year
15 concerning:

16 (1) Evaluations of any adult education charter schools operating
17 under this subchapter, including the impact on meeting industry needs and
18 addressing the workforce needs in the state; and

19 (2) Recommendations regarding the abolition, expansion, or
20 modification of this subchapter.

21
22 6-50-808. Rules.

23 The Department of Career Education shall adopt rules for adult
24 education public charter schools including without limitation rules that
25 address:

26 (1) Eligibility requirements and procedures;

27 (2) Industry needs in the state;

28 (3) Standardized secondary exit-level assessment instruments
29 appropriate for assessing adult education charter school program participants
30 who successfully complete high school curriculum requirements, including the
31 level of satisfactory performance; and

32 (4) Reporting requirements.