

1 State of Arkansas  
2 90th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2015  
4

*As Engrossed: S2/18/15*  
**A Bill**

SENATE BILL 154

5 By: Senator D. Johnson  
6 By: Representative Lowery  
7

**For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH ADULT EDUCATION CHARTER SCHOOLS;  
10 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

**Subtitle**

12  
13  
14 TO ESTABLISH ADULT EDUCATION CHARTER  
15 SCHOOLS.  
16

17  
18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
19

20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 50, is amended to add an  
21 additional subchapter to read as follows:  
22

23 Subchapter 8 – Adult Education Charter School  
24

25 6-50-801. Definitions.

26 As used in this subchapter:

27 (1) "Adult education charter school" means a charter school for  
28 individuals at least nineteen (19) years of age that offers a high school  
29 diploma program, a general education development 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.

7  
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 charter school* seeks to be exempt, with an  
7 explanation of why the exemption is needed.

8  
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 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.

24  
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.

33  
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 not  
2 counted in the average daily membership of a school district may enroll in an  
3 adult education charter school if the person has not:

4                   (1) Earned a high school diploma; and

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

6  
7           6-50-806. Charter renewal.

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

10  
11           6-50-807. Reporting.

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

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

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

20  
21           6-50-808. Rules.

22           (a) The Department of Career Education shall adopt rules for adult  
23 education charter schools including without limitation rules that address:

24                   (1) Eligibility requirements and procedures;

25                   (2) Industry needs in the state;

26                   (3) Standardized secondary exit-level assessment instruments  
27 appropriate for assessing adult education charter school program participants  
28 who successfully complete high school graduation competencies in core  
29 subjects, including the level of satisfactory performance; and

30                   (4) Reporting requirements.

31           (b) The department shall adopt a rule establishing the minimum  
32 graduation requirements for an adult education charter school to issue a high  
33 school diploma that substantially meets or exceeds the basic graduation  
34 competencies in core subjects expected by the State Board of Education for  
35 public school students.

36

*/s/D. Johnson*

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28
- 29
- 30
- 31
- 32
- 33
- 34
- 35
- 36