

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4
5 By: Senator J. English

A Bill

SENATE BILL 441

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE A LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE TO REVIEW
9 TECHNICAL AND WORKFORCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND
10 RECOMMEND WAYS TO ALIGN TECHNICAL AND WORKFORCE
11 EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO PRODUCE AN EFFICIENT,
12 TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED TECHNICAL AND WORKFORCE
13 EDUCATION SYSTEM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

17 TO CREATE A LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE TO
18 REVIEW TECHNICAL AND WORKFORCE EDUCATION
19 PROGRAMS AND RECOMMEND WAYS TO ALIGN THE
20 PROGRAMS TO PRODUCE AN EFFICIENT,
21 TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED TECHNICAL AND
22 WORKFORCE EDUCATION SYSTEM.

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

27 SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative Task Force
28 on Workforce Education Excellence – Creation – Membership – Duties.

29 (a) There is created the Legislative Task Force on Workforce Education
30 Excellence.

31 (b) The task force shall consist of twenty-nine (29) members as
32 follows:

33 (1) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Education;

34 (2) The Chair of the House Committee on Education;

35 (3) One (1) member of the General Assembly from the First
36 Congressional District, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;



1 (4) One (1) member of the General Assembly from the Second
2 Congressional District, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
3 Representatives;

4 (5) One (1) member of the General Assembly from the Third
5 Congressional District, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

6 (6) One (1) member of the General Assembly from the Fourth
7 Congressional District, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
8 Representatives;

9 (7) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee;

10 (8) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Economic Development
11 Commission or his or her designee;

12 (9) The Director of the Department of Career Education or his or
13 her designee;

14 (10) The Director of the Department of Higher Education or his
15 or her designee;

16 (11) The Director of the Department of Workforce Services or his
17 or her designee;

18 (12) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Association of
19 Educational Administrators;

20 (13) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Community Colleges;

21 (14) Two (2) career and technical education teachers appointed
22 by the Chair of the Senate Committee on Education;

23 (15) Two (2) adult education teachers appointed by the Chair of
24 the Senate Committee on Education;

25 (16) Six (6) members recommended by the Arkansas State Chamber
26 of Commerce who represent industry in Arkansas;

27 (17) Two (2) two-year state-supported institution of higher
28 education administrators selected from the group of two-year state-supported
29 institutions of higher education that host secondary career and technical
30 centers appointed by the Chair of the Senate Committee on Education;

31 (18) Two (2) high school superintendents selected from the group
32 of school districts that host secondary career and technical centers
33 appointed by the Chair of the Senate Committee on Education;

34 (19) One (1) four-year state-supported institution of higher
35 education administrator appointed by the Chair of the Senate Committee on
36 Education; and

1 (20) One (1) at-large member appointed by the Chair of the
2 Senate Committee on Education.

3 (c)(1)(A) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Education shall call
4 the first meeting of the task force within sixty (60) days of the effective
5 date of this act and shall serve as the chair of the task force.

6 (B) The Chair of the House Committee on Education shall
7 serve as the vice-chair of the task force.

8 (2) At the first meeting of task force, the members of the task
9 force shall elect from its membership other officers as needed for the
10 transaction of business.

11 (3)(A) The task force shall conduct its meetings at the State
12 Capitol Building or another site selected by the chair.

13 (B) Meetings of the task force shall be held at least one
14 (1) time every three (3) months but may occur more often at the call of the
15 chair.

16 (4) The task force shall establish rules and procedures for
17 conducting business.

18 (5) If a vacancy occurs on the task force, the vacancy shall be
19 filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

20 (6)(A) Legislative members of the task force shall be paid per
21 diem and mileage as authorized by law for attendance at meetings of interim
22 committees of the General Assembly.

23 (B) Non-legislative members of the task force shall serve
24 without compensation but may receive reimbursement under § 25-16-902.

25 (7)(A) A majority of the members of the task force shall
26 constitute a quorum for transacting business.

27 (B) No action may be taken by the task force except by a
28 majority vote at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

29 (8) The task force may expend funds and resources in carrying
30 out its purpose and responsibilities that are appropriated or funded by the
31 General Assembly or a third party.

32 (9) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff for
33 the task force.

34 (d)(1) The task force shall review and research ways to improve career
35 and technical education programs and workforce development programs and to
36 align career and technical education programs and workforce development

1 programs to achieve a positive economic impact on the State of Arkansas.

2 (2) The task force shall:

3 (A) Review the current structure, fiscal performance,
4 compliance, and outcomes of the career and technical education programs and
5 workforce development programs offered through:

6 (i) High schools;

7 (ii) Secondary vocational area centers, as defined
8 in § 6-20-2303;

9 (iii) Two-year institutions of higher education;

10 (iv) Four-year institutions of higher education;

11 (v) The Department of Career Education;

12 (vi) The Department of Workforce Services;

13 (vii) Apprenticeship schools, offices, and programs,
14 including at the Department of Labor, Department of Career Education,
15 Department of Workforce Services, Department of Human Services, and other
16 apprenticeship schools receiving public funds; and

17 (viii) Other agencies or organizations that offer
18 career and technical education programs or workforce development programs;

19 (B) Review the workforce needs of the state now and in the
20 future;

21 (C) Recommend strategies to meet the workforce needs of
22 the state;

23 (D) Research and recommend ways to improve the delivery of
24 career and technical education programs and workforce development programs;

25 (E) Research and recommend strategies to align the career
26 and technical education programs and workforce development programs;

27 (F) Research and recommend strategies that:

28 (i) Reduce skill shortages;

29 (ii) Enhance the state's economic growth;

30 (iii) Meet industry demands;

31 (iv) Improve fiscal and operational consistency and
32 efficiency as it relates to career and technical education among statewide
33 high schools, secondary vocational area centers, apprenticeship programs, and
34 two-year state-supported institutions of higher education;

35 (v) Create alignment among educational and career
36 pathways, concurrent credit opportunities, apprenticeship credits for

1 relevant secondary and college courses, and work-based learning opportunities
2 for students transitioning among high schools, secondary vocational area
3 centers, apprenticeship programs, two-year state-supported institutions of
4 higher education, and employment;

5 (vi) Identify and overcome barriers to improve
6 career and technical education programs and workforce development programs
7 and to align career and technical education programs and workforce
8 development programs to achieve a positive economic impact on the State of
9 Arkansas, including without limitation:

10 (a) Any limitations on work-based learning
11 opportunities for high school and college students;

12 (b) A lack of career-centric, outcome-based
13 incentives at all levels of education;

14 (c) The gap between education requirements and
15 employer and labor market needs; and

16 (d) The lack of strategic alignment and
17 collaboration among the similarly motivated workforce and education programs
18 of agencies, school districts, and institutions of higher education; and

19 (vii) Provide access to high-quality, globally
20 competitive career and technical education programs and workforce development
21 programs;

22 (G) Review best practices among other states;

23 (H) Review regional, prioritized occupations and skills
24 needed by using the priorities and regions defined by each local workforce
25 development board under the Arkansas Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
26 Act, § 15-4-3701 et seq., as a starting point, which shall drive program and
27 funding priorities for the entities, pathways, curricula, training, and
28 credit opportunities;

29 (I) Review methods to create and implement a statewide
30 plan for promotion and recruitment of talent to opportunities in the highest
31 priority occupations;

32 (J) Review ways to reduce duplication of effort and
33 achieve alignment and collaboration in improving career and technical
34 education programs and workforce development programs and aligning career and
35 technical education programs and workforce development programs to achieve a
36 positive economic impact on the State of Arkansas;

1 (K) Engage the following:

2 (i) Local workforce development committees under the
3 Arkansas Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, § 15-4-3701 et seq.;

4 (ii) Arkansas Economic Development Commission;

5 (iii) Department of Workforce Services;

6 (iv) Department of Higher Education;

7 (v) Department of Education;

8 (vi) Department of Career Education;

9 (vii) Administrators of two-year state-supported
10 institutions of higher education;

11 (viii) Arkansas Community Colleges;

12 (ix) Association of Arkansas Development
13 Organizations;

14 (x) Arkansas Association of Education

15 Administrators;

16 (xi) Secondary vocational area center directors; and

17 (xii) Public school district superintendents; and

18 (L) Review methods to create and adopt an inter-agency
19 data and information sharing plan that includes accounting for necessary
20 information technology infrastructure that records and makes available to all
21 agencies the funding provided and obligated, whether federal or state funds,
22 to support education, training, workforce development, and related equipment
23 and infrastructure.

24 (e)(1) On or before February 1, 2018, the task force shall file with
25 the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro
26 Tempore of the Senate, and the chairs of the House Committee on Education and
27 the Senate Committee on Education a written preliminary report of the
28 activities, findings, and recommendations of the task force.

29 (2)(A) On or before September 1, 2018, the task force shall file
30 with the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President
31 Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the chairs of the House Committee on Education
32 and the Senate Committee on Education a written, final report of the
33 activities, findings, and recommendations of the task force.

34 (B) The task force may file an updated final report on or
35 before July 1, 2019.

36 (f) The task force expires on July 1, 2019.