

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

As Engrossed: S3/26/19

A Bill

SENATE BILL 522

5 By: Senator J. English
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE WORKFORCE
9 DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM; TO COORDINATE VARIOUS WORKFORCE
10 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS; TO AMEND AND EXPAND THE DUTIES
11 OF THE OFFICE OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND THE CAREER
12 EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD; TO DECLARE
13 AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

15
16 TO CREATE A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE
17 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM; TO
18 COORDINATE VARIOUS WORKFORCE PROGRAMS; TO
19 AMEND THE DUTIES OF THE CAREER EDUCATION
20 AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD; AND TO
21 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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27 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative intent.

28 The General Assembly finds that:

29 (1) Occupational, technical, and industrial training provides
30 unique opportunities to improve the lives of Arkansans while advancing the
31 state's economic development;

32 (2) Businesses seeking to begin operations in Arkansas look to
33 the level of education and skills in the workforce as a key factor in making
34 investment decisions;

35 (3) Currently, Arkansas workforce education operates within a
36 variety of agencies, without coordination, often with significant



1 inefficiencies arising from overlapping and repeated programming and from
2 important programs being overlooked as presumably covered by another program;
3 and

4 (4) Bringing coordination of all state and federal career
5 education and workforce development programs will:

6 (A) Reduce unnecessary duplication of programming;

7 (B) Ensure that every Arkansan who seeks occupational,
8 technical, and industrial training will find an appropriate education program
9 in the state;

10 (C) Bring consistency, efficiency, and rigor, as
11 established by applicable industry and accreditation standards to the state's
12 career education and workforce development efforts; and

13 (D) Alert industry to the commitment of the State of
14 Arkansas to economic development through career workforce education.

15
16 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 25-30-101(b), concerning the membership of
17 the Career Education and Workforce Development Board, is amended to read as
18 follows:

19 (b) The board shall consist of the following members, to be appointed
20 by the Governor with advice and consent of the Senate:

21 (1)(A) As voting members, from a list of recommendations by
22 industry and business associations:

23 ~~(A)~~(i) One (1) member to represent the agriculture
24 industry;

25 ~~(B)~~(ii) One (1) member to represent the construction
26 industry;

27 ~~(C)~~(iii) One (1) member to represent the energy
28 industry;

29 ~~(D)~~(iv) One (1) member to represent the healthcare
30 industry;

31 ~~(E)~~(v) One (1) member to represent the information
32 technology industry;

33 ~~(F)~~(vi) One (1) member to represent the
34 manufacturing industry;

35 ~~(G)~~(vii) One (1) member to represent the financial
36 services industry;

1 ~~(H)~~(viii) One (1) member to represent the
2 hospitality industry;

3 ~~(I)~~(ix) One (1) member to represent the
4 transportation-logistics industry;

5 ~~(J)~~(x) One (1) member to represent the
6 rehabilitation services industry; and

7 ~~(K)~~(xi) At the discretion of the Governor, up to
8 three (3) members representing industries not represented in subdivisions
9 ~~(b)(1)(A)-(J)~~(b)(1)(A)(i)-(x) of this section;

10 (B) A voting member under subdivision (b)(1)(A) of this
11 section may establish a subcommittee that includes non-board members of the
12 voting member's relevant industry in order to discuss and develop the list of
13 recommendations developed by certain individuals as required under § 25-30-
14 102(a)(1)(C) for the strategic plan required under § 25-30-102(a)(1)(A).

15 (2) As nonvoting members:

16 (A) The Commissioner of Education;

17 (B) The Director of the Department of Higher
18 Education;

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

21 (D) The Director of the Arkansas Economic
22 Development Commission;

23 (E) The Director of the Department of Workforce
24 Services;

25 (F) One (1) member to represent the Arkansas
26 Association of Public Universities; ~~and~~

27 (G) One (1) member to represent the Arkansas
28 Association of Educational Administrators~~;~~;

29 (H) One (1) member to represent the Department of
30 Human Services;

31 (I) One (1) member to represent the Department of
32 Correction;

33 (J) One (1) member to represent the Arkansas
34 Economic Developers and Chamber Executives; and

35 (K) The Deputy Director of Career and Technical Education
36 of the Department of Career Education.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 25-30-102 is amended to read as follows:

25-30-102. Powers and duties of the Office of Skills Development and the Career Education and Workforce Development Board.

(a)~~(1)~~ The Office of Skills Development and the Career Education and Workforce Development Board, in coordination with the Department of Higher Education, the Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the Department of Education, shall: ~~develop and monitor a state plan for vocational technical education, which shall include at least the establishment of one (1) area vocational center in each education service cooperative service area and in Pulaski County.~~

~~(2) All policy issues affecting the public schools will be developed by the Career Education and Workforce Development Board after consultation with the State Board of Education and implemented in coordination with the Department of Education or the education service cooperatives, or both.~~

~~(b)(1) The Career Education and Workforce Development Board shall have general supervision of all programs regarding vocational, technical, and occupational education.~~

~~(2) All of those programs and the funding of those programs shall be subject to the approval of the Career Education and Workforce Development Board.~~

~~(c)(1) The responsibilities of the Career Education and Workforce Development Board shall include all vocational, technical, and occupational education, including without limitation the following:~~

~~(A)(1)(A) Establishing policies relating to plans and specifications for facilities and instructional equipment~~ Bring together business leaders, industry leaders, education leaders, state agencies, training providers, and other workforce development stakeholders in order to develop a strategic plan and road map for meeting current and future workforce demands.

(B) The plan required under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section shall:

(i) Assist state agencies in better understanding the changing economy;

(ii) Promote alignment of workforce education,

1 higher education, skills, and training with present and future career
2 opportunities;

3 (iii) Identify the estimated costs associated with
4 implementing the required plan under this section;

5 (iv) Identify potential new revenue streams to fund
6 recommendations that are supplemental to existing education funding sources;
7 and

8 (v) Identify areas of high unemployment in the state
9 where increased efforts can stimulate job growth and employment attainment.

10 (C) A preliminary plan and recommendations shall be
11 presented to the Governor, the Senate Committee on Education, and the House
12 Committee on Education by July 2020;

13 ~~(B)(2) Prescribing standardized standards for programs and~~
14 ~~teachers~~ Develop and oversee a comprehensive apprenticeship office that
15 serves as the center point for business, industry, and education leaders that
16 want to establish an earn-to-learn apprenticeship program;

17 ~~(C)(3) Approving applied courses of related academic instruction~~
18 Design and create a website that exhibits all aspects of workforce
19 development education, programs, and employment opportunities in the state,
20 and includes without limitation information and opportunities for students,
21 educators, industry leaders, and employers; and

22 (4) Develop a catalogue of nationally recognized credentials
23 that are widely adopted by the respective industries and related to the
24 applicable programs of instruction at each high school, community college, or
25 technical institute or vocational-technical school;

26 (5)(A) Report on the status of programs of instruction related
27 to the catalogue of nationally recognized credentials developed under
28 subdivision (a)(4) of this section on an annual basis to the Senate Committee
29 on Education and the House Committee on Education beginning January 1, 2020.

30 (B) The report required under (a)(5)(A) of this section
31 shall include without limitation related costs associated with seeking and
32 maintaining identified national credentials;

33 (6) Establish an asset map to identify all state and federal
34 dollars and programs that are intended for workforce education and training
35 from kindergarten through career levels in order to promote alignment of all
36 resources utilized towards the development of an educated and skilled

1 workforce in this state;

2 (7) Establish an industry sector-led review of related industry-
3 specific programs that are delivered by two-year institutions of higher
4 education and, if applicable, four-year institutions of higher education that
5 includes without limitation:

6 (A) Curriculum;

7 (B) Instruction;

8 (C) Equipment, tools, and technology utilized in
9 instruction;

10 (D) Employment outcomes;

11 (E) Partner engagement; and

12 (F) Program and instructional alignment with widely
13 accepted industry standards or applicable national credentials referenced
14 under subdivision (a)(4);

15 (8) Submit a report on the findings of industry-led reviews
16 conducted under subdivision (a)(7) of this section upon completion to the
17 House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education;

18 ~~(D) Other items relative to program quality and operation.~~

19 ~~(2) The Career Education and Workforce Development Board shall:~~

20 ~~(A) Administer the career education and workforce~~
21 ~~development programs administered by the Career Education and Workforce~~
22 ~~Development Board;~~

23 ~~(B)(9)~~ Adopt rules to administer the office and the Career
24 ~~Education and Workforce Development Board board~~ board and the programs developed by
25 the office and the Career Education and Workforce Development Board board,
26 including without limitation the creation and election of officers subsequent
27 to the initial ~~chair~~ chairs;

28 ~~(C) Create a comprehensive statewide program of career~~
29 ~~education and workforce development focused on educational opportunities and~~
30 ~~retention with the goal of economic development;~~

31 ~~(D) Coordinate programs and curricula for career education~~
32 ~~and workforce development;~~

33 ~~(E) Review and approve program designs for career~~
34 ~~education and workforce development;~~

35 ~~(F) Review and approve curricula design for career~~
36 ~~education and workforce development;~~

1 ~~(G) Promote career education and workforce development~~
2 ~~programs and curricula statewide; and~~

3 ~~(H)(10) Oversee the Office of Skills Development, office; and~~
4 ~~(11) Address other items relative to the quality and operation~~
5 ~~of workforce development efforts, opportunities, and programs under this~~
6 ~~subchapter.~~

7 ~~(3)(A) The Career Education and Workforce Development Board may~~
8 ~~reorganize and restructure current programs and personnel in the institutions~~
9 ~~covered in this section.~~

10 ~~(B) Any savings of appropriated funds effected by the~~
11 ~~reorganization and restructuring may be used by the Career Education and~~
12 ~~Workforce Development Board for other programs as it deems appropriate.~~

13 (b) The office and the board shall be industry-driven in membership
14 and duties.

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16 SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
17 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that Arkansas workforce education
18 operates within a variety of agencies without coordination, often with
19 significant inefficiencies arising from overlapping and repeated programming;
20 that this act will bring workforce education programs together under a single
21 umbrella agency and uniform access to information; and that this act is
22 immediately necessary because the effectiveness of this act is essential to
23 the operation of the programs for which appropriations will be provided.
24 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately
25 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall
26 become effective on:

27 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

28 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
29 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
30 bill; or

31 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
32 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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35 /s/J. English
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