

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1700

5 By: Representative Bentley  
6 By: Senator G. Stubblefield  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO IMPROVE STUDENT OUTCOMES BY PROVIDING  
10 STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND GUIDANCE COUNSELORS WITH  
11 RELIABLE INFORMATION REGARDING THE COST OF COLLEGE  
12 AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER  
13 PURPOSES.  
14  
15

## Subtitle

16 TO IMPROVE STUDENT OUTCOMES BY PROVIDING  
17 STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND GUIDANCE  
18 COUNSELORS WITH RELIABLE INFORMATION  
19 REGARDING THE COST OF COLLEGE AND JOB  
20 OPPORTUNITIES IN ARKANSAS.  
21  
22  
23

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

26 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

27 The General Assembly finds that:

28 (1) A fundamental goal of Arkansas's secondary and higher  
29 education system is not only to educate and enrich young people, but also to  
30 help young people establish a solid foundation for good-paying work;

31 (2) The cost of college continues to increase for young  
32 individuals across the country, and student debt has become the second-  
33 largest financial debt vehicle in the United States;

34 (3) The General Assembly is proud of its institutions of higher  
35 education and believes they can compete with any in the nation, but their  
36 cost to enrollees must be as transparent as possible;





1           (5) The average total student loan debt for graduates of in-  
 2 state colleges for four-year degrees and graduate programs;

3           (6) The average graduation rate for all colleges and vocational  
 4 schools in the state;

5           (7) The completion rates for:

6                 (A) Apprenticeship programs;

7                 (B) High school credential programs;

8                 (C) Career and technical education programs; and

9                 (D) Military first-term enlistments;

10          (8) The share of college graduates working in an occupation that  
 11 does not require a college degree for each major;

12          (9) The average starting salary for individuals graduating from  
 13 a college;

14          (10) The average starting salary for individuals who have  
 15 completed:

16                 (A) An apprenticeship program;

17                 (B) A high school credential program; or

18                 (C) A career and technical education program;

19          (11) The base pay for newly enlisted service members; and

20          (12) The average starting salary for individuals graduating from  
 21 a vocational school in the state.

22  
 23          6-60-1203. Information published to public by Department of Education.

24          (a) The Department of Education shall establish and make available to  
 25 the public an online tool called the "Student Horizon Database" that contains  
 26 a searchable database that compares the following among colleges and  
 27 vocational schools based on users' selections:

28                 (1) Average annual cost;

29                 (2) Graduation rate;

30                 (3) Salary after attending;

31                 (4) Highest paying salaries for top five (5) majors;

32                 (5) Full-time enrollment amounts;

33                 (6) Socioeconomic diversity;

34                 (7) Race and ethnicity information;

35                 (8) Family income brackets;

36                 (9) Percentage of students paying down their student loan debts;

- 1           (10) Typical total student loan debt after graduation;  
2           (11) Students receiving federal student loans;  
3           (12) Typical monthly loan payment;  
4           (13) Students who return after their first year; and  
5           (14) Graduation, withdrawal, transfer, and current enrollment  
6 status for students eight (8) years after attending.

7           (b)(1) The database established under subsection (a) of this section  
8 shall provide individuals with the ability to select a specific major or  
9 program at a specific college or vocational school.

10           (2) Upon selecting a specific major or program at a specific  
11 college or vocational school while using the database, the following overview  
12 shall be provided, to be filled in with information required under subsection  
13 (a) of this section as it applies to the specific major or program at the  
14 specific college or vocational school that the individual selected:

15           "For every 100 students starting in {insert major} at this  
16 {insert university, college, career and technical education program, or  
17 certificate program}, {insert number} will graduate in 6 years; of those,  
18 {insert number} will get a job with an average starting salary of {insert  
19 salary} within 6 months of graduation. The average debt for the graduates  
20 will be {insert debt}. The total cost on average for this degree is {insert  
21 total amount paid}. Of the {insert number} who don't graduate, they will  
22 accumulate an average debt of {insert debt}."

23  
24           6-60-1204. Information published and distributed to middle and high  
25 school students by Department of Education.

26           The Department of Education shall publish and distribute to middle and  
27 high school students in the State of Arkansas on an annual basis a  
28 comparison, using the information collected under § 6-60-1202, that contains  
29 the following information without limitation:

30           (1) The top fifty (50) majors for four-year degrees by salaries  
31 after graduating;

32           (2) The top twenty (20) career and technical education and  
33 certificate programs by salaries after graduating or receiving a certificate  
34 of completion;

35           (3) The top twenty-five (25) most in-demand jobs in the state  
36 and their corresponding starting salaries and education requirements; and

1           (4) The base pay and benefits for enlistment in the military,  
2 which shall include without limitation the necessary Armed Services  
3 Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) score by military branch and the average  
4 signing bonus.

5  
6           6-60-1205. Rules.

7           The Department of Education shall promulgate rules to implement this  
8 subchapter.

9  
10          6-60-1206. Effective date.

11          The requirements of this subchapter shall be effective no later than  
12 January 1, 2022.

13  
14          SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Rules.

15          (a) When adopting the initial rules required under this act, the  
16 Department of Education shall file the final rules with the Secretary of  
17 State for adoption under § 25-15-204(f):

18                 (1) On or before January 1, 2022; or

19                 (2) If approval under § 10-3-309 has not occurred by January 1,  
20 2022, as soon as practicable after approval under § 10-3-309.

21          (b) The department shall file the proposed rules with the Legislative  
22 Council under § 10-3-309(c) sufficiently in advance of January 1, 2022, so  
23 that the Legislative Council may consider the rules for approval before  
24 January 1, 2022.