

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

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 265

5 By: Senator Irvin  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO REORGANIZE THE RIVERSIDE VOCATIONAL AND  
9 TECHNICAL SCHOOL INTO THE CORRECTIONS SCHOOL SYSTEM;  
10 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

## Subtitle

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13 TO REORGANIZE THE RIVERSIDE VOCATIONAL  
14 AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL INTO THE  
15 CORRECTIONS SCHOOL SYSTEM.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Temporary legislation.

22 The Riverside Vocational and Technical School is reorganized into the  
23 Corrections School System.  
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25 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-51-902(f), concerning accountability  
26 measures and performance indicators concerning postsecondary vocational and  
27 technical education at Riverside Vocational Technical School, is repealed.

28 ~~(f) Riverside Vocational Technical School shall be exempt from all~~  
29 ~~provisions of this subchapter except this section and shall remain a~~  
30 ~~postsecondary vocational technical school as structured under the Department~~  
31 ~~of Corrections.~~  
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33 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 12-29-301(b), concerning the Corrections  
34 School System, is amended to read as follows:

35 (b)(1) The system is created for the purpose of providing elementary,  
36 secondary, and vocational and technical education to qualified persons



1 incarcerated in facilities of the Division of Correction and the Division of  
2 Community Correction or to qualified persons supervised by the Division of  
3 Community Correction, including those on probation and parole or any type of  
4 post-prison release or transfer ~~who are not high school graduates,~~  
5 irrespective of age.

6 (2) Vocational and technical education shall meet established  
7 industry needs as recommended by the Division of Career Education and  
8 approved by the Board of Corrections.

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10 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 12-29-306 – 12-29-310, concerning the  
11 Riverside Vocational and Technical School, are repealed.

12 ~~12-29-306. Riverside Vocational and Technical School—Legislative~~  
13 ~~intent.~~

14 ~~(a) This section and §§ 12-29-307—12-29-310 are intended to create~~  
15 ~~an additional state vocational and technical school to provide vocational and~~  
16 ~~technical education and training opportunities to qualified persons~~  
17 ~~incarcerated in facilities of the Division of Correction and the Division of~~  
18 ~~Community Correction or to qualified persons supervised by the Division of~~  
19 ~~Community Correction, including those on probation and parole or any type of~~  
20 ~~post-prison release or transfer.~~

21 ~~(b) This section and §§ 12-29-307—12-29-310 are not intended to~~  
22 ~~modify or repeal any of the laws of this state pertaining to vocational and~~  
23 ~~technical schools or vocational and technical education.~~

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25 ~~12-29-307. Riverside Vocational and Technical School—Establishment.~~  
26 ~~There is established a state vocational and technical school, to be~~  
27 ~~known as the “Riverside Vocational and Technical School”, to be operated by~~  
28 ~~the Division of Correction and the Division of Community Correction at such~~  
29 ~~facilities of the Division of Correction and the Division of Community~~  
30 ~~Correction as may be designated by the Board of Corrections.~~

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32 ~~12-29-308. Riverside Vocational and Technical School—Purpose.~~  
33 ~~The Riverside Vocational and Technical School is created for the~~  
34 ~~purpose of providing vocational and technical educational opportunities to~~  
35 ~~qualified persons incarcerated in facilities of the Department of Correction~~  
36 ~~and the Department of Community Correction or to qualified persons supervised~~

1 by the Department of Community Correction, including those on probation and  
2 parole or any type of post-prison release or transfer who would be qualified  
3 to receive vocational and technical education and training in state  
4 vocational and technical schools established by the Career Education and  
5 Workforce Development Board under the provisions of §§ 6-51-201—6-51-203,  
6 6-51-205, 6-51-207—6-51-210, and other laws of this state relative to  
7 vocational and technical schools.

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9 ~~12-29-309. Riverside Vocational and Technical School—Facilities—~~  
10 ~~Operations—Rules.~~

11 ~~(a)(1) The Division of Correction and the Division of Community~~  
12 ~~Correction shall locate facilities and operate vocational or technical~~  
13 ~~education or training programs within the Riverside Vocational and Technical~~  
14 ~~School.~~

15 ~~(2) The operation of the school is subject to such special rules~~  
16 ~~deemed appropriate for the operation of vocational or technical education or~~  
17 ~~training programs at the correctional institutions under the control of the~~  
18 ~~Division of Correction and the Division of Community Correction in accordance~~  
19 ~~with agreements and rules mutually developed and agreed to by the Department~~  
20 ~~of Education and the Board of Corrections.~~

21 ~~(b)(1) The school shall be entitled to all funds, rights, and~~  
22 ~~privileges and shall be operated in the same manner as other area vocational~~  
23 ~~and technical schools are operated in this state.~~

24 ~~(2) However, the school shall be operated in accordance with the~~  
25 ~~rules for the operation of vocational or technical education or training~~  
26 ~~programs at facilities of the Division of Correction and the Division of~~  
27 ~~Community Correction as provided in §§ 12-29-306—12-29-310.~~

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29 ~~12-29-310. Riverside Vocational and Technical School—Cost of~~  
30 ~~implementation and operation.~~

31 ~~(a) The cost of implementing and operating the Riverside Vocational~~  
32 ~~and Technical School at facilities of the Division of Correction and the~~  
33 ~~Division of Community Correction as authorized by this section and §§ 12-29-~~  
34 ~~306—12-29-309 shall be borne by the state and shall be paid from funds~~  
35 ~~appropriated by the General Assembly to the school, the Division of~~  
36 ~~Correction, and the Division of Community Correction, together with any~~

1 federal funds that may be available for this purpose in the following manner:

2           (1) ~~The cost of facilities and equipment in excess of the amount~~  
3 ~~of moneys provided by the school shall be borne by the Division of Correction~~  
4 ~~and the Division of Community Correction as approved by the Board of~~  
5 ~~Corrections; and~~

6           (2)(A) ~~This section and §§ 12-29-306—12-29-309 contemplate~~  
7 ~~that the Division of Correction and the Division of Community Correction will~~  
8 ~~provide facilities for the vocational and technical education programs~~  
9 ~~operated by the school.~~

10           (B) ~~However, nothing in this section and §§ 12-29-306—~~  
11 ~~12-29-309 shall prohibit the Career Education and Workforce Development Board~~  
12 ~~from providing facilities or sharing in the cost of facilities and from~~  
13 ~~providing or sharing in the cost of repairing, maintenance, and upkeep of the~~  
14 ~~buildings and facilities with the Division of Correction and the Division of~~  
15 ~~Community Correction as funds are provided by the General Assembly, or are~~  
16 ~~otherwise available for these purposes.~~

17           (b) ~~The school shall be administered under the direction and~~  
18 ~~supervision of the chief administrative officer of the Corrections School~~  
19 ~~System or the Director of the Riverside Vocational and Technical School under~~  
20 ~~the direct authority of the Board of Directors of the Corrections School~~  
21 ~~System.~~

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