

State of Arkansas  
90th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2015

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1581

By: Representatives Gillam, Eubanks, Cozart, Lampkin, Leding, Ratliff, Lowery, Harris, M.J. Gray, Bell, Baltz, McElroy, Murdock, C. Douglas, G. Hodges, Walker, Deffenbaugh, Sabin, C. Armstrong  
By: Senators A. Clark, J. English, J. Hendren, U. Lindsey

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE TO STUDY  
THE REALIGNMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO CREATE THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE TO  
STUDY THE REALIGNMENT OF HIGHER  
EDUCATION.

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

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative Task Force on the Realignment of Higher Education.

(a) There is created the Legislative Task Force on the Realignment of Higher Education.

(b)(1) The task force shall consist of the following twelve (12) members:

(A) The Chair of the House Committee on Education or the chair's designee;

(B) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Education or the chair's designee;

(C) Five (5) Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

(D) Five (5) Senators appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.



(2) If a vacancy occurs on the task force, the vacancy shall be filled by the same process as the original appointment.

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

(c)(1) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall call the first meeting of the task force within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this act and shall serve as chair of the task force at the first meeting.

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

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

(B) Meetings of the task force shall be held at least one (1) time every two (2) months but may occur more often at the call of the chair.

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

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

(B) The task force may not take an action except by a majority vote at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

(6) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff for the task force.

(d) The purpose of the task force is to:

(1) Study the advantages and disadvantages of realigning state-supported institutions of higher education;

(2) Identify current redundancies that exist with the current structure of higher education in Arkansas;

(3) Determine what mechanisms are currently available or could be available to provide cost savings to state-supported institutions of higher education and to students;

(4) Improve accountability to and communications with the General Assembly; and

(5) Review the structure of higher education systems in other states, identifying those states with efficient and successful systems.

(e) On or before November 1, 2016, the task force shall file a report of the task force's activities, findings, and recommendations with the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Chair of the House Committee on Education, and the Chair of the Senate Committee on Education.

(f) The task force shall expire on December 31, 2016.

**APPROVED: 03/18/2015**