

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.  
Act 951 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas  
91st General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: S3/16/17 H3/27/17

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 441

By: Senator J. English  
By: Representative Cozart

## For An Act To Be Entitled

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

## Subtitle

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

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

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

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

(b) The task force shall consist of sixteen (16) members as follows:

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

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

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



(4) One (1) member of the House of Representatives from the First Congressional District, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(5) One (1) member of the Senate from the Second Congressional District, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(6) One (1) member of the House of Representatives from the Second Congressional District, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(7) One (1) member of the Senate from the Third Congressional District, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(8) One (1) member of the House of Representatives from the Third Congressional District, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(9) One (1) member of the Senate from the Fourth Congressional District, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(10) One (1) member of the House of Representatives from the Fourth Congressional District, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

(11)(A) Six (6) members who represent industry in Arkansas to be appointed as follows:

(i) Three (3) members to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and

(ii) Three (3) members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(B) The members appointed under subdivision (11)(A) of this section shall be chosen from a list of names submitted by the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce that shall include without limitation:

(i) Industry executives;

(ii) Human resources personnel;

(iii) Licensed professionals; and

(iv) Other representatives of industry.

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

(2) At the first meeting of task force, the members of the task

force shall elect from its membership other officers as needed for the transaction of business.

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

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

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

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

(6)(A) 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.

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

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

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

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

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

(d)(1) The task force shall review and research ways to improve career and technical education programs and workforce development programs and to align career and technical education programs and workforce development programs to achieve a positive economic impact on the State of Arkansas.

(2) The task force shall:

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

(i) High schools;

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

- (iii) Two-year institutions of higher education;
  - (iv) Four-year institutions of higher education;
  - (v) The Department of Career Education;
  - (vi) The Department of Workforce Services;
  - (vii) Apprenticeship schools, offices, and programs, including at the Department of Labor, Department of Career Education, Department of Workforce Services, Department of Human Services, and other apprenticeship schools receiving public funds; and
  - (viii) Other agencies or organizations that offer career and technical education programs or workforce development programs;
- (B) Review the workforce needs of the state now and in the future;
- (C) Recommend strategies to meet the workforce needs of the state;
- (D) Research and recommend ways to improve the delivery of career and technical education programs and workforce development programs;
- (E) Research and recommend strategies to align the career and technical education programs and workforce development programs;
- (F) Research and recommend strategies that:
  - (i) Reduce skill shortages;
  - (ii) Enhance the state's economic growth;
  - (iii) Meet industry demands;
  - (iv) Improve fiscal and operational consistency and efficiency as it relates to career and technical education among statewide high schools, secondary vocational area centers, apprenticeship programs, and two-year state-supported institutions of higher education;
  - (v) Create alignment among educational and career pathways, concurrent credit opportunities, apprenticeship credits for relevant secondary and college courses, and work-based learning opportunities for students transitioning among high schools, secondary vocational area centers, apprenticeship programs, two-year state-supported institutions of higher education, and employment;
  - (vi) Identify and overcome barriers to improve career and technical education programs and workforce development programs and to align career and technical education programs and workforce development programs to achieve a positive economic impact on the State of

Arkansas, including without limitation:

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

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

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

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

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

(G) Review best practices among other states;

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

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

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

(K) Engage the following:

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

(ii) Arkansas Economic Development Commission;

(iii) Department of Workforce Services;

(iv) Department of Higher Education;

(v) Department of Education;

(vi) Department of Career Education;

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

(viii) Arkansas Community Colleges;

(ix) Association of Arkansas Development

Organizations;

(x) Arkansas Association of Education

Administrators;

(xi) Secondary vocational area center directors; and

(xii) Public school district superintendents; and

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

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

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

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

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

/s/J. English

**APPROVED: 04/05/2017**