

State of Arkansas
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

A Bill

SENATE BILL 135

By: Senators K. Hammer, J. English

By: Representative Cozart

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REVISE THE METHOD OF FUNDING SECONDARY
VOCATIONAL AREA CENTERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REVISE THE METHOD OF FUNDING SECONDARY
VOCATIONAL AREA CENTERS.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative intent.

It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

(1) Funding for secondary vocational area centers should reflect a number of fast-changing factors, such as regional and statewide workforce priorities, as well as demand on an industry-by-industry basis;

(2) The definition of "full time equivalent students" and the funding level tied to the number of full time equivalent students be aligned with a regulatory system that allows the Department of Career Education to monitor and adjust these terms in response to the changing business environment;

(3) The current funding structure of three thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$3,250) per full time equivalent student be discontinued in favor of establishing a tiered funding structure for distributing vocational center aid determined by the Department of Career Education and approved by the Career Education and Workforce Development Board; and

(4) A tiered funding structure for distributing vocational center aid determined by the Department of Career Education and approved by



the Career Education and Workforce Development Board take into account the different funding needs and costs of individual programs of study or the workforce needs of the State of Arkansas.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2305(b)(2)(B), concerning public school funding, is amended to read as follows:

(B)(i)(a) Beginning with the ~~2007-2008~~ 2020-2021 school year, secondary vocational area center funding shall be ~~three thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$3,250)~~ multiplied by the number of students enrolled in a secondary vocational area center during the previous school year established by a tiered funding structure for distributing vocational center aid for each full-time equivalent student, as defined by the Department of Career Education.

(b) The vocational center aid under subdivision (b)(2)(B)(i)(a) of this section shall be determined by the Department of Career Education and approved by the Career Education and Workforce Development Board.

(ii) ~~Funding for students in secondary vocational area centers shall be distributed based on rules promulgated by the Career Education and Workforce Development Board~~ The Department of Career Education shall promulgate rules for:

(a) A tiered system of determining the amount of vocational center aid under subdivision (b)(2)(B)(i) of this section for each secondary vocational area center; and

(b) The method of distribution of the vocational center aid under subdivision (b)(2)(B)(i) of this section.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-51-305(a)(1), concerning the financing of vocational centers, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) Vocational centers shall be financed ~~with a combination of training fees from schools sending students and~~ by distributing vocational center aid from the Public School Fund according to rules and regulations promulgated by the ~~State Board of Career Education~~ Career Education and Workforce Development Board.

APPROVED: 2/19/19