

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 79 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

As Engrossed: S1/21/21
A Bill

SENATE BILL 125

By: Senator J. Sturch
By: Representative L. Johnson

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-61-111 is repealed.

~~6-61-111. Student assessment programs.~~

~~(a) Beginning with the fall 1991 semester, each state-supported institution of higher education shall implement an assessment program to evaluate student learning of general education core curriculum.~~

~~(b) The student outcomes assessment program developed by each institution shall be approved by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board prior to implementation.~~

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-61-127 is repealed.

~~6-61-127. Arkansas Higher Education Performance Reporting System.~~

~~(a)(1) The Division of Higher Education, in consultation with the institutions of higher education, shall develop an Arkansas Higher Education Performance Reporting System.~~

~~(2) The Legislative Council shall have final approval of the form and content of the performance reports to be provided to the General Assembly, the various interim committees, and the public after considering~~



~~the recommendations of the House Committee on Education and Senate Committee on Education.~~

~~(b) To the extent possible, the Arkansas Higher Education Performance Reporting System will utilize information from an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education's assessment outcomes measures, which are required for reaffirmation of accreditation, federal Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System report data, and data collected annually through the Statewide Information System of the Division of Higher Education.~~

~~(c) In developing the Arkansas Higher Education Performance Reporting System, the Division of Higher Education will review and analyze higher education performance reporting systems used in other states to incorporate the best aspects of those plans.~~

~~(d) The Arkansas Higher Education Performance Reporting System will provide the General Assembly and the public with quantitative, objective information which will reveal institutional weaknesses and strengths. Performance-based reports shall be provided annually to the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Education, and the Legislative Council.~~

~~(e) To the extent possible, and taking into account the differences in institutional missions, the Arkansas Higher Education Performance Reporting System will contain uniform accountability elements which reveal trends, strengths, and weaknesses and assist policymakers and prospective students and their parents in comparing institutions and judging the extent to which they are effectively and efficiently accomplishing their missions.~~

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-61-221(b), concerning reporting of graduates requiring postsecondary remediation, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The Division of Higher Education and the ~~Office of Accountability~~ Division of Public School Accountability, shall work together to develop a compatible system of reporting the number of:

(1) Students who required remediation during their first year of enrollment in a state-supported institution of higher education if the enrollment occurred within two (2) years of graduation from a secondary school in this state;

(2) Students who required remediation and who graduated:

(A) With a 3.0 or higher grade point average on a 4.0

scale; and

- (B) From a public high school after completing the+
~~(i) Program of the minimum minimum core of high~~
 school courses recommended for preparation for postsecondary education by the
 Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the State Board of Education
 pursuant to § 6-61-217, ~~known as “Smart Core”; or~~
~~(ii) Non Smart Core curriculum; and~~
- (3) Attempts it takes a student to pass a postsecondary remedial
 course, ~~beginning in the 2011-2012 school year.~~

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-82-306(b)(4)-(6), concerning eligibility
 for the Arkansas Governor’s Scholars Program, are amended to read as follows:

- (4) Graduates from a high school; and
~~(5)(A) Demonstrates proficiency in the application of knowledge~~
~~and skills in reading and writing literacy and mathematics by passing the~~
~~end-of-course examination as may be developed by the Division of Elementary~~
~~and Secondary Education and as may be designated by the Division of Higher~~
~~Education for this purpose.~~
- ~~(B) “End-of-course” assessment means those assessments~~
~~defined in § 6-15-419 [repealed]; and~~
- ~~(6)(A)~~(5)(A) Satisfies the qualifications of superior academic
 ability as established by the Division of Higher Education with criteria
 consisting of value points for academic achievement and leadership, including
 without limitation:
- “(i) ACT or SAT score, National Merit Finalist, or*
National Achievement Finalist;
- (ii) High school grade point average;
 (iii) Rank in high school class; and
 (iv) Leadership in school, community, and
 employment.

(B)(i) The Division of Higher Education may alter the weight
 assigned to the individual criterion to more appropriately meet the needs of
 the state as determined by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(ii) The Division of Higher Education shall ensure
 that the weight assigned to each individual criterion under this subdivision
~~(b)(6)(B)~~ (b)(5)(B) does not place a home-schooled, public school, or private

school student at a disadvantage.

(iii)(a) After determining qualified recipients based on the qualifications under subdivision ~~(b)(6)(A)~~ (b)(5)(A) of this section, the Division of Higher Education shall ensure that at least one (1) recipient is selected from each of the seventy-five (75) counties in Arkansas.

(b) If any of the seventy-five (75) counties is not represented, the Division of Higher Education shall select a student from each unrepresented county with the highest qualifications under subdivision ~~(b)(6)(A)~~ (b)(5)(A) of this section who was not initially qualified.

/s/J. Sturch

APPROVED: 2/9/21