

State of Arkansas  
94th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2023

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 451

By: Senator J. English

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW REGARDING CAREER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT; TO AMEND THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CAREER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD; TO AMEND THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND THE CAREER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD; TO COORDINATE VARIOUS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW REGARDING CAREER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 25-30-101(b)(1)(A), concerning voting membership of the Career Education and Workforce Development Board, are amended to read as follows:

(1)(A) As voting members, from a list of recommendations by industry and business associations:

(i) One (1) member to represent the agriculture industry;

(ii) One (1) member to represent the construction industry;

(iii) One (1) member to represent the energy industry;

(iv) One (1) member to represent the healthcare industry;



- (v) One (1) member to represent the information technology industry;
- (vi) One (1) member to represent the manufacturing industry;
- ~~(vii) One (1) member to represent the financial services industry;~~
- ~~(viii) One (1) member to represent the hospitality industry;~~
- ~~(ix)~~(vii) One (1) member to represent the transportation-logistics industry;
- ~~(x) One (1) member to represent the rehabilitation services industry;~~ and
- ~~(xi)~~(viii) At the discretion of the Governor, up to three (3) members representing industries ~~not~~ represented in subdivisions (b)(1)(A)(i)-~~(x)~~(vii) of this section.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 25-30-101(c), concerning terms of industry members of the Career Education and Workforce Development Board, is amended to read as follows:

~~(c)(1) The industry members shall serve three-year terms, except that the initial appointees shall serve staggered terms determined by the Governor so that two (2) members serve a one-year term, three (3) members serve a two-year term, and two (2) members serve a three-year term~~ at the pleasure of the Governor.

~~(2) A voting member may not serve more than two (2) consecutive three-year terms.~~

SECTION 3. The introductory language of Arkansas Code § 25-30-102(a), concerning the powers and duties of the Office of Skills Development and the Career Education and Workforce Development Board, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The Office of Skills Development and the Career Education and Workforce Development Board, in coordination with the Division of Higher Education, ~~the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board~~ the Chief Workforce Officer, and the Department of Education, shall:

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 25-30-103 is repealed.

~~25-30-103. Adult education funds.~~

~~The Career Education and Workforce Development Board and the State Board of Education shall remain the sole state agencies to administer any and all state and federal adult education funds.~~

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 25-30-105 is amended to read as follows:

25-30-105. Coordination between ~~Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board~~ Division of Higher Education, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office of Skills Development, and Career Education and Workforce Development Board.

(a) ~~The Career Education and Workforce Development Board and,~~ the ~~Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board~~ Division of Higher Education, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Office of Skills Development shall coordinate their activities to ensure that secondary and postsecondary career preparation is connected to create opportunities for a strong comprehensive education regardless of the student’s ultimate career choice.

~~(b) In addition, the Career Education and Workforce Development Board and the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall participate in a collaborative planning process annually for the distribution of federal funds for workforce education activities, including vocational technical education.~~

~~(c) The distribution shall be pursuant to written agreement between the Career Education and Workforce Development Board and the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.~~

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 25-30-109(d), concerning consultation between the Office of Skills Development and the Arkansas Economic Development Commission is repealed.

~~(d) The office shall consult with the Arkansas Economic Development Commission in reviewing applications for workforce training grants under this section.~~

APPROVED: 4/11/23