

Stricken language would be deleted from present law. Underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas
2 81st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1997

As Engrossed: S3/18/97 S3/24/97

A Bill

SENATE BILL 609

4
5 By: Senator Hopkins
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7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM IN POSTSECONDARY
10 EDUCATION FOR THE BLIND; TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROGRAM SHALL
11 EXPIRE IN FOUR YEARS UNLESS EXTENDED BY AN ACT OF THE
12 GENERAL ASSEMBLY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."
13
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Subtitle

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16 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM IN
17 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FOR THE BLIND;
18 TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROGRAM SHALL EXPIRE
19 IN FOUR YEARS UNLESS EXTENDED BY AN ACT
20 OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY."
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. This act provides for the establishment of a pilot program
26 in postsecondary education for the blind. The provisions of this act shall
27 expire on July 1, 2001 unless extended by an act of the General Assembly.
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29 SECTION 2. (a) There is created the Arkansas Board for Postsecondary
30 Education for the Blind.

31 (b)(1) The members of the board shall be appointed by the Governor as
32 follows:

33 (A) Two (2) members shall be persons certified or degreed
34 in the education of children who are visually impaired;

35 (B) One (1) member shall be a person who is legally blind;

36 (C) One (1) member shall be the parent of a legally blind

1 child; and

2 (D) One (1) member shall be appointed from the general
3 public.

4 (2) Appointments shall be made so that no more than two (2)
5 members of the board shall reside in the same congressional district.

6 (3) The racial make-up of the board should reflect the racial
7 population of the state as accurately as possible.

8 (c) The members of the board shall serve for terms of five (5) years.
9 The initial appointees shall determine their terms by lot so that the term of
10 one (1) member shall expire each year.

11 (d) The members of the board shall annually elect a chairperson.

12 (e) Meetings of the board shall be held during evening hours or on
13 Saturdays. At least twenty (20) minutes shall be reserved at the end of each
14 board meeting for members of the public to address the board.

15 (f) Each member of the board may receive expense reimbursement in
16 accordance with § 25-16-901 et seq.

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18 SECTION 3. (a) There is created the Arkansas Postsecondary Educational
19 Institution for the Blind.

20 (b) The institution shall be an institution of higher learning serving
21 students of at least eighteen (18) years of age but less than twenty-five (25)
22 years of age. The institution shall serve as a college
23 preparatory/transitional program for students who are legally blind or
24 graduated from or are above the age to be served by the Arkansas School for
25 the Blind or public school.

26 (c) The institution shall provide education services through a
27 cooperative venture with one (1) or more institutions of higher education.

28 (d) The educational program of the institution shall not duplicate any
29 social, rehabilitative, or educational programs for the blind that are in
30 existence in the state on the effective date of this act.

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32 SECTION 4. (a) Arkansas Board for Postsecondary Education for the Blind
33 may:

34 (1) Enter into cooperative ventures with one (1) or more
35 institutions of higher education for the provision of facilities, equipment,
36 and staff necessary for the institution; and

