

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1808

4
5 By: Representatives Allen, J. Roebuck, Abernathy, T. Baker, Betts, Blount, T. Bradford, Carnine,
6 Cheatham, Cole, Cook, Davis, J. Dickinson, Greenberg, Hardy, D. Hutchinson, W. Lewellen, Saunders,
7 G. Smith, Stewart, Summers, Tyler, Williams
8 By: Senator G. Baker

For An Act To Be Entitled

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10
11 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS COLLEGE AND CAREER
12 READINESS PLANNING PROGRAM ACT; TO LOWER
13 EDUCATIONAL COSTS, SHORTEN A STUDENT'S TIME TO
14 DEGREE COMPLETION, AND INCREASE THE OVERALL
15 SUCCESS RATE OF ARKANSAS STUDENTS BY REDUCING THE
16 NEED FOR REMEDIATION; TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS
17 HAVE THE CAREER READINESS SKILLS TO COMPETE IN
18 THE GLOBAL ECONOMY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
19

Subtitle

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21 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS COLLEGE AND
22 CAREER READINESS PLANNING PROGRAM ACT.
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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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28 SECTION 1. FINDINGS. The General Assembly finds that:

29 (1) Many Arkansas students enter college unprepared for the
30 academic rigors of college and require noncredit remedial courses to attain
31 skills and knowledge needed for regular credit coursework;

32 (2) There is a direct and significant link between students
33 being academically prepared for college and success in postsecondary
34 endeavors;

35 (3) Remediation lengthens the time required to obtain a degree,
36 imposes additional costs on students and colleges, and uses student financial



1 aid for courses that will not count toward a degree;

2 (4) A precollege readiness assessment program in public high
 3 schools using pre-ACT or pre-SAT assessments will provide early benchmarks
 4 for student performance on college readiness exams and inform high school
 5 guidance counselors and teachers who assist students with academic
 6 achievement, course selection, and college readiness skills;

7 (5) A precollege readiness assessment program will provide
 8 reportable statewide data, enabling policy and program development that will
 9 benefit schools, parents, and students; and

10 (6) Consistent use of precollege assessments will increase the
 11 number of successful student transitions into postsecondary education.

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 13 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 4, is amended
 14 to add an additional section to read as follows:

15 6-15-441. Arkansas College and Career Readiness Planning Program.

16 (a) As used in this section:

17 (1) "College readiness assessment" means a test of student
 18 educational development that measures student readiness for future learning
 19 that is used by:

20 (A) Institutions of higher education as part of their
 21 admissions, placement, and scholarship processes; and

22 (B) High schools to improve college and workforce
 23 readiness;

24 (2) "College and career readiness" means that a student is
 25 academically ready to succeed in college-level courses or in the workforce
 26 without the need to enroll in remedial courses during the student's first
 27 year;

28 (3) "EXPLORE" means the pre-ACT assessment designed to help
 29 students in grade eight (8) explore a broad range of options for their future
 30 and focus not only on high school coursework but also on post-high school
 31 choices as well;

32 (4) "PLAN" means the pre-ACT assessment for students in grade
 33 ten (10) used to help a student focus attention on improved academic
 34 achievement, career preparation, and planning for post-high school years; and

35 (5) "PSAT" means the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship
 36 Qualifying Test that provides practice for the SAT Reasoning Test and gives

1 students feedback on individual strengths and weaknesses on college readiness
 2 skills.

3 (b)(1)(A) Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, each public school
 4 that serves students in grade eight (8) shall administer EXPLORE to each
 5 student enrolled in grade eight (8) at the public school.

6 (B) Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, each public
 7 school that serves students in grade ten (10) shall administer PLAN or the
 8 PSAT to each student enrolled in grade (10) at the public school.

9 (2) Funding for the college readiness assessments listed in
 10 subdivision (b)(1) of this section may be paid by using Department of
 11 Education at-risk funding and school district funding, including National
 12 School Lunch Act funds.

13 (c)(1) Each public school administering the college readiness
 14 assessments under this section shall use the college readiness assessments to
 15 assist students with college and workforce readiness skills, course selection
 16 in high school, and improved academic achievement.

17 (2) By the 2011-2012 school year, each public school shall fully
 18 incorporate the results from college readiness assessments listed in
 19 subdivision (b)(1) of this section into the college and career planning
 20 process for each student.

21 (d) Data collection shall be maintained by the Department of Education
 22 for the purpose of:

- 23 (1) Increasing college and career readiness skills;
- 24 (2) Improving instruction;
- 25 (3) Enhancing school improvement plans; and
- 26 (4) Reducing the college remediation rates of students.

27 (e) The Department of Education shall report to the House Committee on
 28 Education and The Senate Committee on Education no later than September 31,
 29 2010, and each year thereafter, on the implementation and effectiveness of
 30 the College and Career Readiness Planning Program.

31 (f) The department shall promulgate rules to implement this section
 32 and shall monitor the use of college readiness assessments administered under
 33 this section to ensure public school compliance.

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