

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas  
89th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2013

As Engrossed: S3/12/13 S3/14/13  
**A Bill**

SENATE BILL 816

By: Senators Elliott, J. Key

### **For An Act To Be Entitled**

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE VISION 2025 LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION; TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ITS MEMBERS; TO DESCRIBE ITS PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### **Subtitle**

TO ESTABLISH THE VISION 2025 LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION; TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ITS MEMBERS; AND TO DESCRIBE ITS PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

This act shall be known as the "Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education".

SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Creation.

(a) There is created the Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education.

(b) The Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education shall consist of the following twenty-four (24) members:

(1) The Governor or the Governor's designee;

(2) The Chair of the House Committee on Education or the chair's designee;



- (3) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Education or the chair's designee;
- (4) The Vice-chair of the House Committee on Education;
- (5) The Vice-chair of the Senate Committee on Education;
- (6) The Chair of the Higher Education Subcommittee of the Legislative Council or the chair's designee;
- (7) The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;
- (8) The Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission or the director's designee;
- (9) The Director of the Department of Career Education or the director's designee;
- (10) The Director of the Department of Higher Education or the director's designee;
- (11) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges or the executive director's designee;
- (12) A university president or chancellor appointed by the Governor;
- (13) A representative from the Arkansas Association of Independent Colleges and Universities;
- (14) A representative from a historically minority serving university or college in the state, appointed by the Governor;
- (15) A representative from the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce;
- (16) A representative from the membership of a labor union appointed by the Governor;
- (17) A representative from the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation;
- (18) A representative from the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families;
- (19) Three (3) representatives from the community at large appointed by the Governor, such as students, parents, and grandparents with an interest in higher education; and
- (20) Three (3) representatives that reflect the demographics of the state appointed by the Governor.
- (c)(1) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Education or the chair's designee shall call the first meeting of the Vision 2025 Commission on the

Future of Higher Education within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this act and shall serve as the chair at the first meeting.

(2) At the first meeting of the Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education, the Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education members shall elect a chair from its legislative membership.

(3)(A) The Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education shall conduct its meetings in Pulaski County at the State Capitol or other locations in the state as determined by the chair.

(B) At least one (1) meeting shall be held every three (3) months but may occur more often as determined by the chair.

(d) If a vacancy occurs on the Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education, the vacancy shall be filled by the same process as the original appointment.

(e) The Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education shall establish rules and procedures for conducting the business of the Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education.

(f) Members of the Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education shall serve without compensation but may receive reimbursement according to § 25-16-902.

(g) The Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education may expend funds and resources in carrying out the commission's purpose and responsibilities that are appropriated and funded to the commission by the General Assembly.

(h) A majority of the members of the Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education shall constitute a quorum for transacting business of the Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education.

(i) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff for the Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education.

SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Purpose and responsibilities.

(a)(1) The Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education shall study, research, and brainstorm ways in which higher education can transform and positively impact the state by 2025 and beyond 2025.

(2) As a part of the commission's duty to study, research, and brainstorm ways in which higher education can transform and positively impact the state, the commission shall:

(A) Explore what is required to:

(i) Create a culture of college success as fundamental expectation for all students; and

(ii) Reach the Governor's 2025 goal of the number of Arkansans with a degree or certificate from an institution of higher education;

(B) Identify the role that higher education plays in:

(i) Improving the quality of life for all Arkansans;  
and

(ii) Contributing to economic opportunity and expansion;

(C) Study barriers that impede access to higher education and ways to remove them, including without limitation;

(i) The cost of tuition, fees, and room and board;

(ii) Scholarship and grant funding availability; and

(iii) Affordability, including ways to promote and encourage families to save for college; and

(D) Identify how research opportunities can aid the state in achieving and surpassing the Governor's 2025 goals and beyond, including the identification of clear strategies to attract research opportunities to the state.

(b)(1) The commission shall develop a progress report and a final report that includes a set of recommendations for the General Assembly that will detail the work of the commission required under subsection (a) of this section.

(2)(A) The commission shall present the progress report and the final report to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development, and the public.

(B) The progress report is due no later than *April 30, 2014* and the final report is due not later than *October 15, 2014*.

SECTION 4. DO NOT CODIFY. Expiration of the Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education.

The Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education shall cease to exist on January 1, 2017.

*/s/Elliott*