

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1701

By: Representative Love

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO MAKE GRANTS TO HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS TO OFFENDERS WHO ARE RECENTLY RELEASED OR SOON-TO-BE RELEASED FROM INCARCERATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM TO MAKE GRANTS TO HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS TO OFFENDERS WHO ARE RECENTLY RELEASED OR SOON-TO-BE RELEASED FROM INCARCERATION.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 61, Subchapter 4, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-61-403. Offender Education Re-entry Pilot Program.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Educational program" means:

(A) A program of study designed to lead to a high school equivalency diploma; or

(B) Educational courses that are transferrable for course credit to the historically black college or university that offers the courses;



(2) "Eligible offender" means an individual who has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or been found guilty of a criminal offense and:

(A) Has been released from incarceration for not longer than one (1) year; or

(B) Is scheduled to be released from incarceration in not longer than one (1) year; and

(3) "Historically black college or university" means a part B institution as defined under 20 U.S.C. § 1061(2), as it existed on January 1, 2017.

(b) The Department of Higher Education shall establish a five-year pilot program that makes grants to historically black colleges and universities in this state to provide educational programs to eligible offenders in order to facilitate re-entry into the community.

(c) The chief executive officer of a historically black college or university in this state seeking a grant under this section shall submit an application at the time, in the manner, and containing the information required by the department.

(d)(1) The portion of the costs of an educational program supported by a grant under subsection (b) of this section shall not exceed fifty percent (50%).

(2) A recipient of a grant under subsection (b) of this section may meet the matching requirement under subdivision (d)(1) of this section by making in-kind contributions of goods or services that are directly related to the purpose for which the grant was awarded.

(e) The department shall report the results of the pilot program to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education no later than six (6) months following the conclusion of the pilot program.