

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

SENATE BILL 476

By: Senator Teague

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
HIGHER EDUCATION FOR GENERAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
EDUCATION GENERAL IMPROVEMENT
APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - GENERAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Higher Education, to be payable from the General Improvement Fund or its successor fund or fund accounts, the following:

(A) for a grant for personal services and operating expenses and professional fees for expenses of creating a statewide culture of innovation, entrepreneurial activity and economic growth and for preparing traditional and non-traditional Arkansas students to fill occupations in existing and emerging industries by strategically aligning business training and academic preparation to respond directly to the needs of employers in the State of Arkansas, in a sum not to exceed.....\$5,000,000.

(B) for grants for investment in Arkansas' workforce through training incentives for establishments located in Arkansas to upgrade skills of their existing workforce, or for a potential new workforce, and to build capacity within Arkansas to supply on-going training needs of Arkansas companies and to increase participation in the State's school-to-work initiatives, in a sum



not to exceed.....\$5,000,000.

(C) for grants for scholarships for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and for personal services and operating expenses as determined by the Department of Higher Education for outreach programs to promote awareness of the scholarships for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, in a sum not to exceed.....\$5,000,000.

(D) for grants to institutions of higher education for construction, renovation, maintenance, critical maintenance, equipment, security enhancements, technology upgrades/equipment and library resources, in a sum not to exceed.....\$5,000,000.

(E) for providing student assistance grants and various scholarships for Higher Education Opportunities Grants, SREB Minority Doctoral Scholars, Washington Center Scholarships, Tuition Adjustments, Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarships, Arkansas Governor’s Scholars, Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program (SURF), National Guard Tuition Assistance Program, Single Parent Scholarship Program, State Teacher Education Program, Teacher Opportunity Program, Workforce Improvement Grants, Arkansas Geographical Critical Needs Minority Teacher Scholarships, Dependents of Law Enforcement Officers, Emergency Responders, Firefighters and other Enforcement Scholarships, and Dependents of Prisoners of War, Missing in Action, Killed in Action Tuition Waivers, in a sum not to exceed\$10,000,000.

(F) for payments of the contracts, loans and grants with participating out-of-state institutions of higher learning in the fields of dentistry, optometry, osteopathy, veterinary medicine, chiropractic, and podiatry for the education of Arkansas citizens, in a sum not to exceed\$10,000,000.

SECTION 2. DISBURSEMENT CONTROLS. (A) No contract may be awarded nor obligations otherwise incurred in relation to the project or projects described herein in excess of the State Treasury funds actually available therefor as provided by law. Provided, however, that institutions and agencies listed herein shall have the authority to accept and use grants and donations including Federal funds, and to use its unobligated cash income or funds, or both available to it, for the purpose of supplementing the State Treasury funds for financing the entire costs of the project or projects

enumerated herein. Provided further, that the appropriations and funds otherwise provided by the General Assembly for Maintenance and General Operations of the agency or institutions receiving appropriation herein shall not be used for any of the purposes as appropriated in this act.

(B) The restrictions of any applicable provisions of the State Purchasing Law, the General Accounting and Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law and any other applicable fiscal control laws of this State and regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be strictly complied with in disbursement of any funds provided by this act unless specifically provided otherwise by law.

SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2017 is essential to the operation of the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2017 could work irreparable harm upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2017.