

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

State of Arkansas
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

As Engrossed: S3/26/19 H4/3/19
A Bill

SENATE BILL 522

By: Senator J. English
By: Representative Cozart

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM; TO COORDINATE VARIOUS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS; TO AMEND AND EXPAND THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND THE CAREER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM; TO COORDINATE VARIOUS WORKFORCE PROGRAMS; TO AMEND THE DUTIES OF THE CAREER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative intent.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Occupational, technical, and industrial training provides unique opportunities to improve the lives of Arkansans while advancing the state's economic development;

(2) Businesses seeking to begin operations in Arkansas look to the level of education and skills in the workforce as a key factor in making investment decisions;

(3) Currently, Arkansas workforce education operates within a



variety of agencies, without coordination, often with significant inefficiencies arising from overlapping and repeated programming and from important programs being overlooked as presumably covered by another program; and

(4) Bringing coordination of all state and federal career education and workforce development programs will:

(A) Reduce unnecessary duplication of programming;

(B) Ensure that every Arkansan who seeks occupational, technical, and industrial training will find an appropriate education program in the state;

(C) Bring consistency, efficiency, and rigor, as established by applicable industry and accreditation standards to the state's career education and workforce development efforts; and

(D) Alert industry to the commitment of the State of Arkansas to economic development through career workforce education.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 25-30-101(b), concerning the membership of the Career Education and Workforce Development Board, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The board shall consist of the following members, to be appointed by the Governor with advice and consent of the Senate:

(1) ~~(A)~~ As voting members, from a list of recommendations by industry and business associations:

~~(A)(i)~~ One (1) member to represent the agriculture industry;

~~(B)(ii)~~ One (1) member to represent the construction industry;

~~(C)(iii)~~ One (1) member to represent the energy industry;

~~(D)(iv)~~ One (1) member to represent the healthcare industry;

~~(E)(v)~~ One (1) member to represent the information technology industry;

~~(F)(vi)~~ One (1) member to represent the manufacturing industry;

~~(G)(vii)~~ One (1) member to represent the financial

services industry;

~~(H)(viii)~~ One (1) member to represent the
hospitality industry;

~~(I)(ix)~~ One (1) member to represent the
transportation-logistics industry;

~~(J)(x)~~ One (1) member to represent the
rehabilitation services industry; and

~~(K)(xi)~~ At the discretion of the Governor, up to
three (3) members representing industries not represented in subdivisions
~~(b)(1)(A)-(J)(b)(1)(A)(i)-(x)~~ of this section;

(B) A voting member under subdivision (b)(1)(A) of this
section may establish a subcommittee that includes non-board members of the
voting member's relevant industry in order to discuss and develop the list of
recommendations developed by certain individuals as required under § 25-30-
102(a)(1)(C) for the strategic plan required under § 25-30-102(a)(1)(A).

(2) As nonvoting members:

- (A) The Commissioner of Education;
- (B) The Director of the Department of Higher
Education;
- (C) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Community
Colleges;
- (D) The Director of the Arkansas Economic
Development Commission;
- (E) The Director of the Department of Workforce
Services;
- (F) One (1) member to represent the Arkansas
Association of Public Universities; ~~and~~
- (G) One (1) member to represent the Arkansas
Association of Educational Administrators; ~~and~~
- (H) One (1) member to represent the Department of
Human Services;
- (I) One (1) member to represent the Department of
Correction;
- (J) One (1) member to represent the Arkansas
Economic Developers and Chamber Executives;
- (K) The Deputy Director of Career and Technical Education

of the Department of Career Education; and

(L) One (1) member to represent the Division of Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 25-30-102 is amended to read as follows:

25-30-102. Powers and duties of the Office of Skills Development and the Career Education and Workforce Development Board.

(a)~~(1)~~ The Office of Skills Development and the Career Education and Workforce Development Board, in coordination with the Department of Higher Education, the Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the Department of Education, shall: ~~develop and monitor a state plan for vocational-technical education, which shall include at least the establishment of one (1) area vocational center in each education service cooperative service area and in Pulaski County.~~

~~(2) All policy issues affecting the public schools will be developed by the Career Education and Workforce Development Board after consultation with the State Board of Education and implemented in coordination with the Department of Education or the education service cooperatives, or both.~~

~~(b)(1) The Career Education and Workforce Development Board shall have general supervision of all programs regarding vocational, technical, and occupational education.~~

~~(2) All of those programs and the funding of those programs shall be subject to the approval of the Career Education and Workforce Development Board.~~

~~(c)(1) The responsibilities of the Career Education and Workforce Development Board shall include all vocational, technical, and occupational education, including without limitation the following:~~

~~(A)(1)(A) Establishing policies relating to plans and specifications for facilities and instructional equipment~~ Bring together business leaders, industry leaders, education leaders, state agencies, training providers, and other workforce development stakeholders in order to develop a strategic plan and road map for meeting current and future workforce demands.

(B) The plan required under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this

section shall:

(i) Assist state agencies in better understanding the changing economy;

(ii) Promote alignment of workforce education, higher education, skills, and training with present and future career opportunities;

(iii) Identify the estimated costs associated with implementing the required plan under this section;

(iv) Identify potential new revenue streams to fund recommendations that are supplemental to existing education funding sources; and

(v) Identify areas of high unemployment in the state where increased efforts can stimulate job growth and employment attainment.

(C) A preliminary plan and recommendations shall be presented to the Governor, the Senate Committee on Education, and the House Committee on Education by July 2020;

~~(B)(2) Prescribing standardized standards for programs and teachers~~ Develop and oversee a comprehensive apprenticeship office that serves as the center point for business, industry, and education leaders that want to establish an earn-to-learn apprenticeship program;

~~(C)(3) Approving applied courses of related academic instruction~~ Design and create a website that exhibits all aspects of workforce development education, programs, and employment opportunities in the state, and includes without limitation information and opportunities for students, educators, industry leaders, and employers; and

(4) Develop a catalogue of nationally recognized credentials that are widely adopted by the respective industries and related to the applicable programs of instruction at each high school, community college, or technical institute or vocational-technical school;

(5)(A) Report on the status of programs of instruction related to the catalogue of nationally recognized credentials developed under subdivision (a)(4) of this section on an annual basis to the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education beginning January 1, 2020.

(B) The report required under (a)(5)(A) of this section shall include without limitation related costs associated with seeking and maintaining identified national credentials;

(6) Establish an asset map to identify all state and federal dollars and programs that are intended for workforce education and training from kindergarten through career levels in order to promote alignment of all resources utilized towards the development of an educated and skilled workforce in this state;

(7) Establish an industry sector-led review of related industry-specific programs that are delivered by two-year institutions of higher education and, if applicable, four-year institutions of higher education that includes without limitation:

(A) Curriculum;

(B) Instruction;

(C) Equipment, tools, and technology utilized in instruction;

(D) Employment outcomes;

(E) Partner engagement; and

(F) Program and instructional alignment with widely accepted industry standards or applicable national credentials referenced under subdivision (a)(4);

(8) Submit a report on the findings of industry-led reviews conducted under subdivision (a)(7) of this section upon completion to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education;

~~(D) Other items relative to program quality and operation;~~

~~(2) The Career Education and Workforce Development Board shall:~~

~~(A) Administer the career education and workforce development programs administered by the Career Education and Workforce Development Board;~~

~~(B)~~ (9) Adopt rules to administer the office and the Career Education and Workforce Development Board board and the programs developed by the office and the Career Education and Workforce Development Board board, including without limitation the creation and election of officers subsequent to the initial ~~chair~~ chairs;

~~(C) Create a comprehensive statewide program of career education and workforce development focused on educational opportunities and retention with the goal of economic development;~~

~~(D) Coordinate programs and curricula for career education and workforce development;~~

~~(E) Review and approve program designs for career education and workforce development;~~

~~(F) Review and approve curricula design for career education and workforce development;~~

~~(G) Promote career education and workforce development programs and curricula statewide; and~~

~~(H) (10) Oversee the Office of Skills Development, office; and
(11) Address other items relative to the quality and operation of workforce development efforts, opportunities, and programs under this subchapter.~~

~~(3)(A) The Career Education and Workforce Development Board may reorganize and restructure current programs and personnel in the institutions covered in this section.~~

~~(B) Any savings of appropriated funds effected by the reorganization and restructuring may be used by the Career Education and Workforce Development Board for other programs as it deems appropriate.~~

(b) The office and the board shall be industry-driven in membership and duties.

SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that Arkansas workforce education operates within a variety of agencies without coordination, often with significant inefficiencies arising from overlapping and repeated programming; that this act will bring workforce education programs together under a single umbrella agency and uniform access to information; and that this act is immediately necessary because the effectiveness of this act is essential to the operation of the programs for which appropriations will be provided. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

/s/J. English