

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

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

SENATE BILL 692

By: Senator J. English

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE TASK FORCE ON THE EDUCATION AND
WORKFORCE TALENT PIPELINE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE TASK FORCE ON THE EDUCATION
AND WORKFORCE TALENT PIPELINE.

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

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Task Force on the
Education and Workforce Talent Pipeline – Creation – Membership – Duties.

(a) There is created the Task Force on the Education and Workforce
Talent Pipeline.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) The House Cochair of the Joint Performance Review Committee
and the Senate Cochair of the Joint Performance Review Committee;

(2) Two (2) members of the House of Representatives appointed by
the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(3) Two (2) members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro
Tempore of the Senate;

(4) The Director of Workforce, Education, and Data
Transformation or his or her designee;

(5) The Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission
or his or her designee;

(6) The Director of the Division of Workforce Services or his or
her designee;

(7) The Director of the Office of Skills Development or his or



her designee;

(8) The Secretary of the Department of Education or his or her designee;

(9) The Director of the Division of Higher Education or his or her designee;

(10) The Secretary of the Department of Human Services or his or her designee;

(11) One (1) representative of the University of Arkansas system appointed by the President of the University of Arkansas or his or her designee;

(12) One (1) representative of the Arkansas State University system appointed by the President of Arkansas State University or his or her designee;

(13) The Executive Director of Arkansas Community Colleges or his or her designee;

(14) One (1) representative of Arkansas Tech University appointed by the President of Arkansas Tech University or his or her designee;

(15) One (1) representative of the University of Central Arkansas appointed by the President of the University of Central Arkansas or his or her designee;

(16) The President and Chief Executive Officer of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and the Associated Industries of Arkansas;

(17) Four (4) industry members chosen by the chair of the Career Education and Workforce Development Board; and

(18) One (1) representative of the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators appointed by the Executive Director of the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators or his or her designee.

(c) If a vacancy occurs on the task force, the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(d)(1) The House Cochair of the Joint Performance Review Committee and the Senate Cochair of the Joint Performance Review Committee shall call the first meeting of the task force within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this act and shall serve as cochairs of the task force.

(2) At the first meeting of the task force, the members of the task force shall elect from its membership other officers as needed for the

transaction of business.

(3)(A) The task force shall conduct its meetings at the State Capitol Building or another site selected by the cochairst of the task force.

(B) Meetings of the task force shall be held at least one (1) time every three (3) months but may occur more often at the call of the cochairst of the task force.

(C) The cochairst of the task force may form subcommittees as necessary to carry out the duties of the task force.

(4) The task force shall establish rules and procedures for conducting business.

(5)(A) Legislative members of the task force shall be paid per diem and mileage as authorized by law for attendance at meetings of interim committees of the General Assembly.

(B) Nonlegislative members of the task force shall serve without compensation but may receive reimbursement under § 25-16-902.

(6)(A) A majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a quorum for transacting business.

(B) No action may be taken by the task force except by a majority vote at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

(7) The task force may expend funds and resources in carrying out its purpose and responsibilities that are appropriated or funded by the General Assembly or a third party.

(8) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff for the task force.

(e) The task force shall:

(1) Review and identify best practices in other states for:

(A) Work-based learning at the secondary and postsecondary level;

(B) Credential registry;

(C) Industry skills-based competencies;

(D) Career pathways;

(E) Skills gaps; and

(F) Sector partnerships;

(2) Identify Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) careers and educational pathways;

(3) Review and research ways to improve career and technical

education programs and workforce development programs and to align career and technical education programs and workforce development programs to achieve a positive economic impact on the State of Arkansas;

(4) Review the current structure, fiscal performance, compliance, and outcomes of the career and technical education programs and workforce development programs offered through:

(A) High schools;

(B) Secondary vocational area centers as defined in § 6-20-2303;

(C) Two-year institutions of higher education;

(D) Four-year institutions of higher education;

(E) The Division of Career and Technical Education;

(F) The Division of Workforce Services;

(G) Apprenticeship schools, offices, and programs, including at the Department of Labor and Licensing, the Division of Career Education, the Division of Workforce Services, the Department of Human Services, and other apprenticeship schools receiving public funds; and

(H) Other agencies or organizations that offer career and technical education programs or workforce development programs;

(5) Recommend strategies to meet the workforce needs of the state;

(6) Research and recommend ways to improve the delivery of career and technical education programs and workforce development programs;

(7) Research and recommend strategies that:

(A) Reduce skill shortages;

(B) Enhance the state's economic growth;

(C) Meet industry demands;

(D) Improve fiscal and operational consistency and efficiency as they relate to career and technical education among statewide high schools, secondary vocational area centers, apprenticeship programs, and two-year state-supported institutions of higher education;

(E) Create alignment among educational and career pathways, concurrent credit opportunities, apprenticeship credits for relevant secondary and college courses, and work-based learning opportunities for students transitioning among high schools, secondary vocational area centers, apprenticeship programs, two-year state-supported institutions of

higher education, and employment;

(F) Identify and overcome barriers to improve career and technical education programs and workforce development programs and to align career and technical education programs and workforce development programs to achieve a positive economic impact on the State of Arkansas, including without limitation:

(i) Any limitations on work-based learning opportunities for high school and college students;

(ii) A lack of career-centric, outcome-based incentives at all levels of education;

(iii) The gap between education requirements and employer and labor market needs; and

(iv) The lack of strategic alignment and collaboration among the similarly motivated workforce and education programs of agencies, school districts, and institutions of higher education; and

(G) Provide access to high-quality, globally competitive career and technical education programs and workforce development programs;

(8) Review best practices among other states;

(9) Review regional, prioritized occupations and skills needed by using the priorities and regions defined by each local workforce development board under the Arkansas Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, § 15-4-3701 et seq., as a starting point, which shall drive program and funding priorities for the entities, pathways, curricula, training, and credit opportunities;

(10) Review methods to create and implement a statewide plan for promotion and recruitment of talent to opportunities in the highest priority occupations;

(11) Review ways to reduce duplication of effort and achieve alignment and collaboration in improving career and technical education programs and workforce development programs and aligning career and technical education programs and workforce development programs to achieve a positive economic impact on the State of Arkansas;

(12) Engage the following:

(A) Industries;

(B) Local workforce development committees under the Arkansas Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, § 15-4-3701 et seq.;

- (C) School districts;
- (D) Chambers of commerce;
- (E) Nonprofit entities;
- (F) Two-year institutions of higher education;
- (G) Four-year institutions of higher education;
- (H) Public school district superintendents;
- (I) The Arkansas Association of Educational

Administrators; and

- (J) Any other relevant individuals or entities;

(13) Review methods to create and adopt an interagency data and information sharing plan that includes accounting for necessary information technology infrastructure that records and makes available to all agencies the funding provided and obligated, whether federal or state funds, to support education, training, workforce development, and related equipment and infrastructure;

(14) Asset map all federal and state education and workforce programs;

(15) Identify federal and state sources of funding for workforce education programs; and

(16) Use available data to identify in-demand occupations.

(f)(1) On or before February 1, 2022, the task force shall file with the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Chair of the House Committee on Education and the Chair of the Senate Committee on Education a written preliminary report of the activities, findings, and recommendations of the task force.

(2)(A) On or before September 1, 2022, the task force shall file with the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Chair of the House Committee on Education and the Chair of the Senate Committee on Education a written, final report of the activities, findings, and recommendations of the task force.

(B) The task force may file an updated final report on or before July 1, 2023.

(g) The task force shall expire on July 1, 2023.