

1 State of Arkansas  
2 89th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2013  
4

As Engrossed: H4/12/13

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1709

5 By: Representative Bragg  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO OBTAIN  
9 A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; TO ESTABLISH AN ALTERNATIVE  
10 HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION *PROGRAM FOCUSED ON A CAREER*  
11 *PATH THROUGH VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL TRAINING*; AND FOR  
12 OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

15 *TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO*  
16 *OBTAIN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; AND TO*  
17 *ESTABLISH AN ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL*  
18 *COMPLETION PROGRAM FOCUSED ON A CAREER*  
19 *PATH THROUGH VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL*  
20 *TRAINING.*  
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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26 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 2, is amended*  
27 *to add an additional section to read as follows:*

28 *6-18-231. Career Path Program.*

29 *(a) By July 1, 2014, the Department of Education and the Department of*  
30 *Career Education shall develop a Career Path Program for Arkansas public high*  
31 *schools.*

32 *(b) The program shall provide a student who is sixteen (16), seventeen*  
33 *(17), or eighteen (18) years of age the opportunity to select a career focus*  
34 *and complete vocational-technical training that leads to a certificate of*  
35 *completion in the vocational-technical area of study and a high school*  
36 *diploma.*



1 (c) The purpose of the program is to address the educational and  
2 career training of students who:

3 (1) May desire a career path other than the traditional  
4 enrollment in postsecondary education as a first-time full-time freshman; or

5 (2) Have left high school and want to return to complete their  
6 secondary education.

7 (d)(1) When a student enrolls in the program, the school, the Adult  
8 Education Section of the Department of Career Education, the student, and the  
9 parent jointly shall develop an education plan for the participating student  
10 that:

11 (A) Includes learning opportunities, vocational-technical  
12 training, tutoring, and mentoring designed to meet the participating  
13 student's needs;

14 (B) Includes meetings with a guidance counselor;

15 (C) Is not based entirely on traditional credit-based  
16 instruction;

17 (D) May provide for a minimum number of hours of adult  
18 education programming based on:

19 (i) The educational needs of the participating  
20 student; and

21 (ii) The employment of the student, if applicable;  
22 and

23 (E) May include without limitation transitional courses  
24 and courses for concurrent credit.

25 (e) In developing the program, the Department of Education and the  
26 Department of Career Education may include without limitation:

27 (1) Exempting the student from the compulsory attendance  
28 requirements of § 6-18-201 while the student is participating in the program;

29 (2) Providing counseling, mentoring, tutoring, or other support  
30 services identified under the student's education plan;

31 (3) Flexibility in the number of instructional hours required to  
32 be delivered on a school campus; and

33 (4) An alternative or dual high school diploma.

34 (f) The State Board of Education and the State Board of Career  
35 Education may promulgate rules as necessary to implement this section.

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*/s/Bragg*