

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

As Engrossed: S2/23/21

A Bill

SENATE BILL 265

5 By: Senators Irvin, B. Davis, J. English, Bledsoe
6 By: Representatives Crawford, Dalby, Barker, Bentley, Brown, Cavanaugh, C. Fite, Haak, Lundstrum,
7 Vaught, Speaks, J. Mayberry, McKenzie, M. Gray
8

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO REORGANIZE THE RIVERSIDE VOCATIONAL AND
10 TECHNICAL SCHOOL INTO THE CORRECTIONS SCHOOL SYSTEM;
11 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
13
14

Subtitle

15 TO REORGANIZE THE RIVERSIDE VOCATIONAL
16 AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL INTO THE
17 CORRECTIONS SCHOOL SYSTEM.
18
19
20

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
22

23 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Temporary legislation.

24 The Riverside Vocational and Technical School is reorganized into the
25 Corrections School System.
26

27 SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative intent.

28 It is the intent of the General Assembly to:

29 (1) Expand the ability of the correctional school district to
30 provide remediation instruction to persons with a high school diploma or
31 general equivalency degree;

32 (2) Align career and technical education for incarcerated
33 persons with industry needs;

34 (3) Recognize the importance of coordination with the Division
35 of Career and Technical Education and the Office of Skills Development,
36 thereby ensuring that every student in the state is truly prepared for the



1 twenty-first-century workforce; and

2 (4) Increase resources for instruction and instructional support
3 through the elimination of duplicative operational structures.

4
5 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-51-902(f), concerning accountability
6 measures and performance indicators concerning postsecondary vocational and
7 technical education at Riverside Vocational Technical School, is repealed.

8 ~~(f) Riverside Vocational Technical School shall be exempt from all~~
9 ~~provisions of this subchapter except this section and shall remain a~~
10 ~~postsecondary vocational technical school as structured under the Department~~
11 ~~of Corrections.~~

12
13 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 12-29-301(b), concerning the Corrections
14 School System, is amended to read as follows:

15 (b)(1) The system is created for the purpose of providing elementary,
16 secondary, and ~~vocational~~ career and technical education to qualified persons
17 incarcerated in facilities of the Division of Correction and the Division of
18 Community Correction or to ~~qualified~~ persons supervised by the Division of
19 Community Correction, including those on probation and parole or any type of
20 post-prison release or transfer ~~who are not high school graduates,~~
21 irrespective of age.

22 (2)(A) Career and technical education shall meet established
23 industry needs.

24 (B) The established industry needs shall be approved by
25 the Board of Corrections after recommendations by:

26 (i) The Division of Career and Technical Education
27 for the Department of Education; and

28 (ii) The Office of Skills Development for the
29 Department of Commerce.

30
31 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 12-29-306 – 12-29-310, concerning the
32 Riverside Vocational and Technical School, are repealed.

33 ~~12-29-306. Riverside Vocational and Technical School – Legislative~~
34 ~~intent.~~

35 ~~(a) This section and §§ 12-29-307 – 12-29-310 are intended to create~~
36 ~~an additional state vocational and technical school to provide vocational and~~

1 ~~technical education and training opportunities to qualified persons~~
2 ~~incarcerated in facilities of the Division of Correction and the Division of~~
3 ~~Community Correction or to qualified persons supervised by the Division of~~
4 ~~Community Correction, including those on probation and parole or any type of~~
5 ~~post-prison release or transfer.~~

6 ~~(b) This section and §§ 12-29-307—12-29-310 are not intended to~~
7 ~~modify or repeal any of the laws of this state pertaining to vocational and~~
8 ~~technical schools or vocational and technical education.~~

9
10 ~~12-29-307. Riverside Vocational and Technical School—Establishment.~~
11 ~~There is established a state vocational and technical school, to be~~
12 ~~known as the “Riverside Vocational and Technical School”, to be operated by~~
13 ~~the Division of Correction and the Division of Community Correction at such~~
14 ~~facilities of the Division of Correction and the Division of Community~~
15 ~~Correction as may be designated by the Board of Corrections.~~

16
17 ~~12-29-308. Riverside Vocational and Technical School—Purpose.~~
18 ~~The Riverside Vocational and Technical School is created for the~~
19 ~~purpose of providing vocational and technical educational opportunities to~~
20 ~~qualified persons incarcerated in facilities of the Department of Correction~~
21 ~~and the Department of Community Correction or to qualified persons supervised~~
22 ~~by the Department of Community Correction, including those on probation and~~
23 ~~parole or any type of post-prison release or transfer who would be qualified~~
24 ~~to receive vocational and technical education and training in state~~
25 ~~vocational and technical schools established by the Career Education and~~
26 ~~Workforce Development Board under the provisions of §§ 6-51-201—6-51-203,~~
27 ~~6-51-205, 6-51-207—6-51-210, and other laws of this state relative to~~
28 ~~vocational and technical schools.~~

29
30 ~~12-29-309. Riverside Vocational and Technical School—Facilities—~~
31 ~~Operations—Rules.~~

32 ~~(a)(1) The Division of Correction and the Division of Community~~
33 ~~Correction shall locate facilities and operate vocational or technical~~
34 ~~education or training programs within the Riverside Vocational and Technical~~
35 ~~School.~~

36 ~~(2) The operation of the school is subject to such special rules~~

1 ~~deemed appropriate for the operation of vocational or technical education or~~
2 ~~training programs at the correctional institutions under the control of the~~
3 ~~Division of Correction and the Division of Community Correction in accordance~~
4 ~~with agreements and rules mutually developed and agreed to by the Department~~
5 ~~of Education and the Board of Corrections.~~

6 ~~(b)(1) The school shall be entitled to all funds, rights, and~~
7 ~~privileges and shall be operated in the same manner as other area vocational~~
8 ~~and technical schools are operated in this state.~~

9 ~~(2) However, the school shall be operated in accordance with the~~
10 ~~rules for the operation of vocational or technical education or training~~
11 ~~programs at facilities of the Division of Correction and the Division of~~
12 ~~Community Correction as provided in §§ 12-29-306—12-29-310.~~

13
14 ~~12-29-310. Riverside Vocational and Technical School—Cost of~~
15 ~~implementation and operation.~~

16 ~~(a) The cost of implementing and operating the Riverside Vocational~~
17 ~~and Technical School at facilities of the Division of Correction and the~~
18 ~~Division of Community Correction as authorized by this section and §§ 12-29-~~
19 ~~306—12-29-309 shall be borne by the state and shall be paid from funds~~
20 ~~appropriated by the General Assembly to the school, the Division of~~
21 ~~Correction, and the Division of Community Correction, together with any~~
22 ~~federal funds that may be available for this purpose in the following manner:~~

23 ~~(1) The cost of facilities and equipment in excess of the amount~~
24 ~~of moneys provided by the school shall be borne by the Division of Correction~~
25 ~~and the Division of Community Correction as approved by the Board of~~
26 ~~Corrections; and~~

27 ~~(2)(A) This section and §§ 12-29-306—12-29-309 contemplate~~
28 ~~that the Division of Correction and the Division of Community Correction will~~
29 ~~provide facilities for the vocational and technical education programs~~
30 ~~operated by the school.~~

31 ~~(B) However, nothing in this section and §§ 12-29-306—~~
32 ~~12-29-309 shall prohibit the Career Education and Workforce Development Board~~
33 ~~from providing facilities or sharing in the cost of facilities and from~~
34 ~~providing or sharing in the cost of repairing, maintenance, and upkeep of the~~
35 ~~buildings and facilities with the Division of Correction and the Division of~~
36 ~~Community Correction as funds are provided by the General Assembly, or are~~

1 ~~otherwise available for these purposes.~~

2 ~~(b) The school shall be administered under the direction and~~
3 ~~supervision of the chief administrative officer of the Corrections School~~
4 ~~System or the Director of the Riverside Vocational and Technical School under~~
5 ~~the direct authority of the Board of Directors of the Corrections School~~
6 ~~System.~~

7

8

/s/ Irvin

9

10

11

APPROVED: 3/25/21

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36