

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 476

5 By: Senator Teague
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
9 HIGHER EDUCATION FOR GENERAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS;
10 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

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13 AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
14 EDUCATION GENERAL IMPROVEMENT
15 APPROPRIATION.
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - GENERAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS. There is
22 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Higher Education, to be payable
23 from the General Improvement Fund or its successor fund or fund accounts, the
24 following:

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

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



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

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

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

11 (E) for providing student assistance grants and various scholarships
12 for Higher Education Opportunities Grants, SREB Minority Doctoral Scholars,
13 Washington Center Scholarships, Tuition Adjustments, Arkansas Academic
14 Challenge Scholarships, Arkansas Governor’s Scholars, Student Undergraduate
15 Research Fellowship Program (SURF), National Guard Tuition Assistance
16 Program, Single Parent Scholarship Program, State Teacher Education Program,
17 Teacher Opportunity Program, Workforce Improvement Grants, Arkansas
18 Geographical Critical Needs Minority Teacher Scholarships, Dependents of Law
19 Enforcement Officers, Emergency Responders, Firefighters and other
20 Enforcement Scholarships, and Dependents of Prisoners of War, Missing in
21 Action, Killed in Action Tuition Waivers, in a sum not to exceed
22\$10,000,000.

23 (F) for payments of the contracts, loans and grants with participating
24 out-of-state institutions of higher learning in the fields of dentistry,
25 optometry, osteopathy, veterinary medicine, chiropractic, and podiatry for
26 the education of Arkansas citizens, in a sum not to exceed
27\$10,000,000.

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

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

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

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

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