

1 State of Arkansas  
2 92nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2019  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 522

5 By: Senator J. English  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE WORKFORCE  
9 DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM; TO COORDINATE VARIOUS WORKFORCE  
10 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS; TO AMEND AND EXPAND THE DUTIES  
11 OF THE OFFICE OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND THE CAREER  
12 EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD; TO DECLARE  
13 AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
14

## Subtitle

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16 TO CREATE A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE  
17 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM; TO  
18 COORDINATE VARIOUS WORKFORCE PROGRAMS; TO  
19 AMEND THE DUTIES OF THE CAREER EDUCATION  
20 AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD; AND TO  
21 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.  
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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27 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative intent.

28 The General Assembly finds that:

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

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

35 (3) Currently, Arkansas workforce education operates within a  
36 variety of agencies, without coordination, often with significant



1 inefficiencies arising from overlapping and repeated programming and from  
2 important programs being overlooked as presumably covered by another program;  
3 and

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

6 (A) Reduce duplication of programming;

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

10 (C) Bring consistency and efficiency to the state's career  
11 education and workforce development efforts; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 ~~(G)(vii)~~ One (1) member to represent the financial  
35 services industry;

36 ~~(H)(viii)~~ One (1) member to represent the

1 hospitality industry;

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

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

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

9 (B) A voting member under subdivision (b)(1)(A) of this  
10 section may establish a subcommittee that includes non-board members of the  
11 voting member’s relevant industry in order to discuss and develop the list of  
12 recommendations required under subdivision (b)(1)(A) of this section.

13 (2) As nonvoting members:

14 (A) The Commissioner of Education;

15 (B) The Director of the Department of Higher  
16 Education;

17 (C) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Community  
18 Colleges;

19 (D) The Director of the Arkansas Economic  
20 Development Commission;

21 (E) The Director of the Department of Workforce  
22 Services;

23 (F) One (1) member to represent the Arkansas  
24 Association of Public Universities; ~~and~~

25 (G) One (1) member to represent the Arkansas  
26 Association of Educational Administrators+;

27 (H) One (1) member to represent the Department of  
28 Human Services;

29 (I) One (1) member to represent the Department of  
30 Correction; and

31 (J) One (1) member to represent the Arkansas  
32 Economic Developers and Chamber of Commerce Executives.

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

35 25-30-102. Powers and duties of the Office of Skills Development and  
36 the Career Education and Workforce Development Board.

1           (a)~~(1)~~ The Office of Skills Development and the Career Education and  
2 Workforce Development Board shall; develop and monitor a state plan for  
3 vocational technical education, which shall include at least the  
4 establishment of one (1) area vocational center in each education service  
5 cooperative service area and in Pulaski County.

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

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

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

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

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

26                           ~~(B)~~ The plan required under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this  
27 section shall:

28                                   ~~(i)~~ Assist state agencies in better understanding  
29 the changing economy; and

30                                   ~~(ii)~~ Align workforce education, skills, and training  
31 with present and future career opportunities.

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

35                   ~~(B)(2)~~ Prescribing standardized standards for programs and  
36 teachers Develop and oversee a comprehensive apprenticeship office that

1 serves as the center point for business, industry, and education leaders that  
 2 want to establish an earn-to-learn apprenticeship program;

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

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

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

16 (6) Establish an industry sector-led assessment of related  
 17 industry-specific programs that are delivered by two-year institutions of  
 18 higher education and, if applicable, four-year institutions of higher  
 19 education to evaluate:

20 (A) Curriculum;

21 (B) Instruction;

22 (C) Tools and technology utilized in instruction;

23 (D) Performance;

24 (E) Partner engagement; and

25 (F) Program and instructional alignment with industry  
 26 standards, as required under subdivision (a)(4);

27 (7) Establish an asset map to identify all state and federal  
 28 dollars and programs that are intended for education and training from  
 29 kindergarten through career level in order to ensure that there is alignment  
 30 of all resources utilized towards the development of an educated and skilled  
 31 workforce in this state;

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

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

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

1           ~~(B)(8)~~ Adopt rules to administer the office and the Career  
2 ~~Education and Workforce Development Board board~~ and the programs developed by  
3 the office and the Career Education and Workforce Development Board board,  
4 including without limitation the creation and election of officers subsequent  
5 to the initial ~~chair~~ chairs;

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

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

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

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

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

17           ~~(H)(9)~~ ~~Oversee the Office of Skills Development, office; and~~

18           (10) Address other items relative to the quality and operation  
19 of workforce development education, opportunities, and programs under this  
20 subchapter.

21           ~~(3)(A)(b)(1)~~ The office and the Career Education and Workforce  
22 ~~Development Board board~~ may reorganize and restructure current workforce  
23 development programs and personnel in the institutions covered in this  
24 ~~section~~ subchapter.

25           ~~(B)(2)~~ Any savings of appropriated funds effected by the  
26 reorganization and restructuring may be used by the office and the Career  
27 ~~Education and Workforce Development Board board~~ for other programs as ~~it~~  
28 ~~deems~~ deemed appropriate.

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

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32           SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
33 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that Arkansas workforce education  
34 operates within a variety of agencies without coordination, often with  
35 significant inefficiencies arising from overlapping and repeated programming;  
36 that this act will bring workforce education programs together under a single

1 umbrella agency and uniform access to information; and that this act is  
2 immediately necessary because the effectiveness of this act is essential to  
3 the operation of the programs for which appropriations will be provided.  
4 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately  
5 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall  
6 become effective on:

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

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

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

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