

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

A Bill

SENATE BILL 692

5 By: Senator J. English
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For An Act To Be Entitled

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

11 TO CREATE THE TASK FORCE ON THE EDUCATION
12 AND WORKFORCE TALENT PIPELINE.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Task Force on the
20 Education and Workforce Talent Pipeline – Creation – Membership – Duties.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



1 her designee;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 transaction of business.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 (e) The task force shall:

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

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

29 (B) Credential registry;

30 (C) Industry skills-based competencies;

31 (D) Career pathways;

32 (E) Skills gaps; and

33 (F) Sector partnerships;

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

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

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

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

7 (A) High schools;

8 (B) Secondary vocational area centers as defined in § 6-
9 20-2303;

10 (C) Two-year institutions of higher education;

11 (D) Four-year institutions of higher education;

12 (E) The Division of Career and Technical Education;

13 (F) The Division of Workforce Services;

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

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

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

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

24 (7) Research and recommend strategies that:

25 (A) Reduce skill shortages;

26 (B) Enhance the state's economic growth;

27 (C) Meet industry demands;

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

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

1 higher education, and employment;

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 (8) Review best practices among other states;

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

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

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

33 (12) Engage the following:

34 (A) Industries;

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

1 (C) School districts;

2 (D) Chambers of commerce;

3 (E) Nonprofit entities;

4 (F) Two-year institutions of higher education;

5 (G) Four-year institutions of higher education;

6 (H) Public school district superintendents;

7 (I) The Arkansas Association of Educational
8 Administrators; and

9 (J) Any other relevant individuals or entities;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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