

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025  
4

As Engrossed: S1/22/25

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 50

5 By: Senators J. Boyd, J. English  
6 By: Representative Wing  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE A LEGISLATIVE STUDY OF WORKFORCE  
10 AND SOCIAL SERVICES REFORM; TO REQUIRE THE  
11 CONSIDERATION OF ANY LEGISLATIVE CHANGES NECESSARY TO  
12 ADDRESS ISSUES IDENTIFIED DURING THE STUDY OF  
13 WORKFORCE AND SOCIAL SERVICES REFORM; AND FOR OTHER  
14 PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

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18 TO REQUIRE A LEGISLATIVE STUDY OF  
19 WORKFORCE AND SOCIAL SERVICES REFORM;  
20 AND TO REQUIRE CONSIDERATION OF  
21 LEGISLATION NECESSARY TO ADDRESS ISSUES  
22 IDENTIFIED DURING THE STUDY.  
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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26 SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative study of  
27 workforce and social services reform – Findings – Scope – Requirements.

28 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

29 (1) Arkansas needs an educated and skilled workforce for  
30 employment in diverse occupations and industries;

31 (2) The Arkansas workforce is increasingly in need of access to  
32 higher quality education and training programs aligned to the growing  
33 technological competencies required in occupations;

34 (3) Arkansas’s public workforce system is a maze of confusing  
35 programs and is not meeting the challenges faced by employers and workers;

36 (4) Arkansas does not have a centralized location that includes



1 a clearinghouse of the available public assistance programs, how to access  
2 them, and eligibility requirements;

3 (5) The United States Congress is considering the  
4 reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, 29 U.S.C. §  
5 3101 et seq., and new opportunities to grant states the ability to pilot  
6 comprehensive innovation demonstration programs; and

7 (6) Research has shown that an integrated system of workforce  
8 and social services more effectively supports the most vulnerable citizens in  
9 escaping poverty through targeted support and work to achieve dignity and  
10 self-sufficiency, which will not only lift individuals but also strengthen  
11 Arkansas's economy.

12 (b)(1) The Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study  
13 Subcommittee of the Legislative Council shall meet to conduct a study of  
14 issues related to the reform of the state's workforce and social services.

15 (2) Meetings for the purpose of conducting the study required  
16 under this section shall be held at least one (1) time every three (3) months  
17 but may occur more often at the call of the cochairs of the Hospital,  
18 Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee of the  
19 Legislative Council.

20 (c)(1) The purpose of the study required under this section is to  
21 study issues and ideas related to the reform of the state's workforce and  
22 social services and to consider related legislation that may be necessary to  
23 remedy any issues identified during the course of the study.

24 (2) The study required under this section shall include without  
25 limitation a study of:

26 (A) State models for coordinating and fully integrating  
27 workforce, social services, education, child care, and healthcare programs;

28 (B) Alternative approaches that the state should consider  
29 to achieve improved outcomes in workforce and social service programs,  
30 including without limitation:

31 (i) Programs of the Workforce Innovation and  
32 Opportunity Act, 29 U.S.C. § 3101 et seq., including without limitation  
33 oversight for an integrated regional services delivery system;

34 (ii) The unemployment insurance program;

35 (iii) Vocational rehabilitation programs;

36 (iv) The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

1 program;

2 (v) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program;

3 (vi) The Employment and Training Program for

4 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients; and

5 (vii) The Child Care Assistance Program;

6 (C) Performance outcomes of various workforce programs,

7 including without limitation an analysis of the number of common participants  
8 enrolled in multiple programs across state agencies;

9 (D) The creation of an asset map that incorporates office  
10 locations, case management systems, and customer intake and eligibility  
11 procedures for the services and programs studied under this section; and

12 (E) Legislation that may be necessary to address any  
13 issues identified in the course of the study conducted under this section.

14 (d) The Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study  
15 Subcommittee of the Legislative Council may form work groups to focus on  
16 specific issues or topics as needed.

17 (e) In conducting the study required under this section, the Hospital,  
18 Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee of the  
19 Legislative Council may include and consider input from subject matter  
20 experts, who may be used to facilitate meetings, conduct research, or provide  
21 technical assistance.

22 (f)(1)(A) On or before October 1, 2026, the Hospital, Medicaid, and  
23 Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee of the Legislative Council  
24 shall file with the cochairs of the Legislative Council a final written  
25 report of the activities, findings, and recommendations of the Hospital,  
26 Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee of the  
27 Legislative Council under this section, including any draft legislation.

28 (B) Upon adoption of the final written report filed under  
29 subdivision (f)(1)(A) of this section, the Legislative Council shall submit a  
30 copy of the adopted final written report to the Governor, the Speaker of the  
31 House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

32 (2) The final written report required under subdivision (f)(1)  
33 of this section shall:

34 (A) Contain recommendations for the integration of the  
35 services and programs considered during the study, including without  
36 limitation any state department or agency reorganizations needed to achieve

1 desired outcomes for the people of Arkansas; and

2 (B) Address the following key components:

3 (i) How current services and programs are organized  
4 and administered at the state agency level;

5 (ii) A vision for how service delivery can be  
6 integrated for the benefit of all Arkansans who rely on the services and  
7 programs studied, including without limitation services and programs  
8 delivered at the state, regional, and local levels;

9 (iii) Opportunities for financial integration and  
10 efficient methods for allocating costs across multiple services and programs;

11 (iv) Recommendations on how supportive services,  
12 such as child care, trauma recovery, and health insurance, can better support  
13 employment outcomes;

14 (v) Identification of efficiencies leading to cost  
15 savings that can be used for enhanced services, such as increased resource  
16 availability for Arkansans to access education and training; and

17 (vi) Identification of opportunities for Arkansas to  
18 participate in any federally authorized workforce demonstration project,  
19 including without limitation provisions requiring waiver requests.

20 (g) During the course of the study required under this section, the  
21 Director of the Division of Workforce Services shall provide updates to the  
22 Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee of the  
23 Legislative Council related to efforts by the United States Congress to  
24 reauthorize and reform the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, 29  
25 U.S.C. § 3101 et seq., including without limitation opportunities to  
26 incorporate recommendations contained within the final report through new  
27 demonstration and waiver authority or other changes to current federal laws.

28 (h) The study required under this section expires on December 31,  
29 2026.

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31 */s/J. Boyd*  
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