

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

Act 563 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas
2 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007
4

As Engrossed: H3/12/07

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2413

5 By: Representatives Dickinson, Abernathy, Allen, Berry, Cooper, Davenport, Dunn, L. Evans, Everett,
6 George, Jeffrey, Kenney, Medley, Norton, Reep, Rosenbaum, Sample, L. Smith, Wills
7 By: Senators B. Johnson, Altes, Argue, Broadway, Bryles, Baker, Trusty, Malone, Madison
8
9

For An Act To Be Entitled

11 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS SCIENCE AND
12 TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY TO SUPPORT AN ALLIANCE OF
13 RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES, CHANCELLORS AND
14 PRESIDENTS, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRIVATE
15 BUSINESS SECTOR FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREATING JOBS,
16 INCREASING RESEARCH, AND ENCOURAGING ECONOMIC
17 DEVELOPMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
18

Subtitle

19 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS SCIENCE
20 AND TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY TO SUPPORT A
21 RESEARCH ALLIANCE FOR THE PURPOSES OF
22 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
23
24
25

26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
27

28 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 15, Chapter 3 is amended to add an
29 additional subchapter, as follows:

30 15-3-301. Title

31 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas Research
32 Alliance Act".
33

34 15-3-302. Legislative intent.

35 The General Assembly finds:



1 (1) Economic growth and development in Arkansas in the twenty-
2 first century are indisputably tied to the success of research centers and
3 institutions in incubating high-tech industry;

4 (2) The critical success factors of research institutions are
5 available research infrastructure, talented senior researchers, suitable
6 buildings, and effective equipment; and

7 (3) Private sector leadership understands the market potential
8 of research in economic development and the job-creating power of public-
9 private collaboration.

10
11 15-3-303. Definitions.

12 As used in this subchapter:

13 (1) "Job creating research" means basic and applied laboratory
14 research that may reasonably be expected to lead to the creation of
15 knowledge-based and high-technology jobs in Arkansas;

16 (2) "Knowledge-based and high-technology jobs" means employment
17 opportunities in positions that pay more than one and seventy-five one
18 hundredths (1.75) times the average annual wage in the state according to the
19 most recent data available;

20 (3) "Research alliance" means the collaborative functions of
21 research universities for the purpose of:

22 (A) Enhancing research infrastructure;

23 (B) Increasing the number of talented researchers at
24 research universities; and

25 (C) Expanding knowledge-based and high-technology job-
26 creating research activities;

27 (4) "Research infrastructure" means the equipment, buildings,
28 information technology connectivity, and software of research universities
29 within which talented researchers conduct their work; and

30 (5) "Research university" means any university campus in Arkansas
31 that receives significant federal funding of job-creating research.

32
33 15-3-304. Collaboration of Arkansas Science and Technology Authority
34 with research universities and private business sector representatives.

35 (a) The Arkansas Science and Technology Authority may work with the
36 chancellors and presidents of research universities and the private business

1 sector to support collaborations establishing an alliance for the purpose of
2 improving the economy of the state through:

3 (1) Improving research infrastructure;

4 (2) Increasing the focus on job-creating research activities
5 within or supported by the research universities; and

6 (3) Expanding job-creating research activities toward producing
7 more knowledge-based and high-technology jobs in this state.

8 (b) The authority shall designate no more than five (5) institutions
9 of higher education as research universities for the purposes of this
10 subchapter.

11
12 15-3-305. Areas of collaboration.

13 The Arkansas Science and Technology Authority may recommend that a
14 research alliance under this subchapter:

15 (1) Identify specific areas where scientific research and
16 technological investigation may contribute to the creation and growth of
17 knowledge-based and high-technology jobs in Arkansas;

18 (2) Determine specific areas in which financial investment in
19 scientific and technological research and development from federal agencies
20 or private businesses located in Arkansas could be enhanced or increased if
21 state resources were made available to assist in financing research
22 infrastructure;

23 (3) Advise universities of the research needs of Arkansas
24 businesses and improve the exchange of scientific and technological
25 information for the mutual benefit of universities and private businesses;

26 (4) Encourage collaborations among scholars and faculty of
27 research universities in the areas of research identified by the alliance;

28 (5)(A) Recommend state investments in research infrastructure.

29 (B) In determining the recommendations for state
30 investments in research infrastructure, the alliance shall invite from
31 research universities:

32 (i) Assessments of the capabilities of the research
33 universities to seize research opportunities in the areas of research
34 identified by the alliance; and

35 (ii) Investments that would accelerate the creation
36 of economic opportunities for the citizens of the state;

1 (6) Certify investments in research infrastructure from the
2 Arkansas Research Infrastructure Fund; and

3 (7) Monitor, in the specific areas identified by the alliance:

4 (A) The growth in university research funding;

5 (B) Intellectual property creation;

6 (C) Licensing of technology to entrepreneurial firms and
7 existing Arkansas companies;

8 (D) Growth in venture capital investments in Arkansas; and

9 (E) Employment in knowledge-based and high-technology
10 employees.

11
12 15-3-306. Contracting with research alliance.

13 (a) In order to assist a research alliance in achieving the objectives
14 identified in § 15-3-305, the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority may
15 contract with a research alliance or any non-profit organization recommended
16 by a research alliance for activities consistent with the research alliance's
17 purpose under § 15-3-305

18 (b) When contracting with the alliance or its designee under this
19 subchapter, the authority may directly enter into agreements with persons or
20 entities and shall not be bound by the provisions of Arkansas procurement law
21 requiring competitive bids.

22
23 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 19, Chapter 6, Subchapter 4 is amended
24 to add an additional section to read as follows:

25 19-6-500. Arkansas Research Infrastructure Fund.

26 (a) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, Auditor
27 of State, and Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a special revenue fund to be
28 known as the "Arkansas Research Infrastructure Fund".

29 (b) The fund shall consist of:

30 (1) All moneys appropriated to it by the General Assembly; and

31 (2) Any gifts, contributions, grants, or bequests received from
32 federal, private, or other sources.

33 (c) The fund shall be used by the Arkansas Science and Technology
34 Authority for the purposes delineated under the Arkansas Research Alliance
35 Act, § 15-3-301 et seq.

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/s/ Dickinson, et

APPROVED: 3/28/2007