

State of Arkansas  
76th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 1987  
By: Senator Dowd

SENATE BILL 628

"AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS 4 (a) AND 4 (d) AND SECTION 25 OF ACT 560 OF 1977 [ARKANSAS STATUTES 80-4904 AND 80-4925] TO INCREASE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION REGARDING THE REVIEW OF EXISTING AND NEW PROGRAMS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (a) of Section 4 of Act 560 of 1977, the same being Arkansas Statutes 80-4904(a), is hereby amended to read as follows:

"(a) To establish a schedule which will require the inventory and review of existing programs and functions of the state-supported colleges and universities. The State Board of Higher Education is hereby authorized to require the termination of any existing degree program if the Board determines that the quality of the program is inadequate, that the number of students enrolled in or graduated from the program is too small, that the program unnecessarily duplicates similar programs at other institutions of higher education in Arkansas, or that the demand for graduates does not justify the cost of the program. If the State Board determines that an existing degree program must be terminated, the State Board shall determine a reasonable deadline for termination and notify the governing board of the affected institution in writing of the termination deadline. The institutional governing board is hereby required to implement this decision, and funds shall not be expended for operation of the program beyond the State Board's termination deadline."

SECTION 2. Subsection (d) of Section 4 of Act 560 of 1977, the same being Arkansas Statutes 80-4904(d), is hereby amended to read as follows:

"(d) To request, receive and evaluate proposals for all new units of instruction, research, and public service which have been approved by the

Board of Trustees and the President of an institution, and to determine, based upon established policies, whether such new units of instruction, research or public service are justified. 'Established policies' as used herein means a written statement developed by the Board in consultation with representatives of each of the State's institutions of higher learning, and which shall set forth the relevant criteria which a proposal for a new unit of instruction must meet before its establishment by an institution is justified. The term 'new unit of instruction, research or public service' used herein includes the establishment of a college, school, division, institute, center, department, new curricula or majors leading to a new degree program, and extension service not presently included in the program of the institution. The term does not include reasonable and moderate extensions, as defined by the Board, of existing curricula, research, or public service programs which have a direct relationship to existing programs at the several public institutions of higher learning. A new unit of instruction, research or public service may not be implemented without approval of the State Board of Higher Education and funds shall not be expended for its operation."

SECTION 3. Section 25 of Act 560 of 1977, the same being Arkansas Statutes 80-4925, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 25. Each of the governing boards of the several state institutions of higher education shall continue to serve their respective institutions as now provided by law and nothing in this Act shall in any way affect the terms of office or tenure of said governing boards, nor any of the powers and duties vested in said boards in the internal management of the affairs of their respective institutions, except as specified in this Act."

SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

