For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE COMPREHENSIVE ARKANSAS
HIGHER EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT; TO CONSOLIDATE
ALL CURRENT LEGISLATIVELY REQUIRED REPORTS
PERTAINING TO HIGHER EDUCATION SUBMITTED BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES, AGENCIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND
ALL OTHERS, INTO ONE ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE REPORT;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT TO CREATE THE COMPREHENSIVE
ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 60, is amended to add an
additional subchapter to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER 7 - COMPREHENSIVE ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT ACT

6-60-701. Title.
This subchapter shall be known as the “Comprehensive Arkansas Higher
Education Annual Report Act”.

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6-60-702. Purpose.

The Comprehensive Arkansas Higher Education Annual Report shall:

(1) Serve as a central tool for the General Assembly and others to evaluate all facets of the Arkansas higher education system; and
(2) Combine all higher education reports currently required by the General Assembly to be submitted separately into one (1) report.

6-60-703. Report.

(a) (1) The Comprehensive Arkansas Higher Education Annual Report shall be submitted by the Department of Higher Education to the House Education Committee and Senate Education Committee, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Governor no later than December 1, 2009, and each year thereafter.
(2) The comprehensive Arkansas Higher Education Annual Report shall be posted on the department website for public inspection no later than December 8, 2009, and each year thereafter.

(b) (1) The Comprehensive Arkansas Higher Education Annual Report shall consist of all higher education reports currently required by the General Assembly, including without limitation reports pertaining to:
(A) Scholarship programs including without limitation the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program and the report required by Acts 2001, No. 1520;
(B) Remediation rates, §§ 6-15-2401 and 6-61-221, updated each even numbered year;
(C) Voluntary ACT program, § 6-18-1608;
(D) Military students and families, § 6-61-112;
(E) Budget, § 6-61-209, updated each even numbered year;
(F) Retention Plans, Retention and graduation rates, including minority retention, §§ 6-61-1311, 6-61-220, and 6-61-122;
(G) Reporting standards, § 6-61-222, updated each even numbered year;
(H) Athletic expenditures, § 6-62-106;
(I) Faculty performance review, § 6-63-104;
(J) Coordination of state educational efforts, § 6-1-304;
(K) Student enrollment, § 6-60-209;
(L) Economic development goals and educational efforts, §
6-61-207; and

(M) Affirmative action programs, § 6-63-103.

(2) All deadlines for higher education reports currently
required by the General Assembly are superseded by subsection (a) of this
section unless otherwise specified in this subchapter.

(3) All financial reports provided to the Higher Education
Coordinating Board shall be included in the report, including The Higher
Education Financial Conditions Report.

(c) All future higher education reports required by the General
Assembly shall:

(1) Be submitted as part of the Comprehensive Arkansas Higher
Education Annual Report; and

(2) Include a fiscal impact on administrative costs to the
Department of Higher Education.

6-60-704. Information submitted to the Department of Higher Education
for inclusion in the report.

(a) All higher education reports submitted to the General Assembly or
other governmental bodies by individual colleges and universities, agencies,
boards or commissions shall be submitted directly to the Department of Higher
Education no later than October 1, 2009 and each year thereafter, for
inclusion in the Comprehensive Arkansas Higher Education Annual Report.

(b) If an institution of higher education fails to submit the required
reports to the Department of Higher Education by October 15 the institutions
shall appear before the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee
on Education to explain why they failed to meet the submission deadline.

(c) Financial information provided by an institution of higher
education is subject to review by Legislative Audit and any adjustments made
to previously submitted financial information during the course of a
financial audit to previously submitted information may be revised based upon
recommendations made by Legislative Audit.

6-60-705. Limitation.

(a) This subchapter does not limit the authority of the General
Assembly to request additional interim reports and supplemental information
from the Department of Higher Education, colleges and universities, or other
entities, as needed.

(b) The Comprehensive Arkansas Higher Education Annual Report shall take priority for the Department of Higher Education staff over a report requested under subsection (a) of this section.

/s/ J. Roebuck

APPROVED: 3/13/2009