

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 265

5 By: Senator E. Cheatham
6 By: Representative Bell
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS SYSTEM
10 EVERSITY; TO ALLOW THE EVERSITY TO BE ESTABLISHED AND
11 RECOGNIZED; TO EXEMPT THE EVERSITY FROM CERTAIN
12 PROVISIONS OF LAW; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 CONCERNING THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
16 SYSTEM EVERSITY; TO ALLOW THE EVERSITY TO
17 BE ESTABLISHED AND RECOGNIZED; TO EXEMPT
18 THE EVERSITY FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF
19 LAW.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 64, Subchapter 3, is amended
26 to add an additional section to read as follows:

27 6-64-305. eVersity – University of Arkansas System.

28 (a) The General Assembly acknowledges that the eVersity, an entirely
29 online institution of higher education of the University of Arkansas System
30 established by the actions of the Board of Trustees of the University of
31 Arkansas and recognized by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board,
32 may:

33 (1) Offer certificate and degree programs in a manner that
34 recognizes a systemic change from the traditional model for higher education;
35 and

36 (2) Provide educational programs that meet the needs of an



1 information-rich and technology-oriented population in a development-driven
2 workforce era.

3 (b) A program of study offered by the eVersity shall have clearly
4 defined expectations of students, including without limitations expectations
5 concerning:

6 (1) Knowledge;

7 (2) Skills;

8 (3) Competencies; and

9 (4) Capacities for additional learning.

10 (c) To meet the needs of a changing workforce, graduates of the
11 eVersity are required to demonstrate mastery, competency, and capabilities of
12 the program area.

13 (d)(1) The eVersity courses and degree programs shall be designed to
14 require active participation and engagement of students in the learning
15 process.

16 (2) The eVersity courses and degree programs will be supported
17 by strong academic support services to enhance student success.

18 (e) To provide affordable educational opportunities, open educational
19 resources shall be utilized to support course delivery to students.

20 (f) To keep courses and degree programs offered by the eVersity at
21 affordable tuition levels while maintaining transparency and accountability,
22 the eVersity is exempt from the following statutes that are not applicable to
23 an entirely online institution of higher education:

24 (1) Section 6-60-204;

25 (2) Section 6-60-206;

26 (3) Section 6-60-211;

27 (4) Section 6-60-303;

28 (5) Immunizations, § 6-60-501 et seq.;

29 (6) Textbooks and course materials, § 6-60-601 et seq.;

30 (7) Arkansas Higher Education Information System, § 6-60-901 et

31 seq.;

32 (8) Section 6-61-107 and 6-61-108;

33 (9) Section 6-61-123;

34 (10) Section 6-61-127;

35 (11) Section 6-61-130;

36 (12) Section 6-61-207;

- 1 (13) Sections 6-61-214 and 215;
- 2 (14) Sections 6-61-220-6-61-222;
- 3 (15) Section 6-61-224;
- 4 (16) Sections 6-61-228-6-61-230;
- 5 (17) Section 6-61-233;
- 6 (18) Productivity Enhancement for Undergraduate Higher Education
7 Act, § 6-61-1301 et seq.;
- 8 (19) Sections 6-62-106 and 6-62-107;
- 9 (20) Section 6-63-104;
- 10 (21) Section 6-63-303;
- 11 (22) Section 6-63-307;
- 12 (23) Section 6-80-106; and
- 13 (24) Section 19-4-1604.

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16 **APPROVED: 03/04/2015**

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