

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021  
4

As Engrossed: H4/14/21

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 599

5 By: Senator Irvin  
6 By: Representative Cozart  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS FINANCIAL EDUCATION  
10 COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

14 TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS FINANCIAL  
15 EDUCATION COMMISSION.  
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 1, is amended to add an  
21 additional subchapter to read as follows:  
22

#### Subchapter 7 – Arkansas Financial Education Commission

##### 6-1-701. Title.

26 This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas  
27 Financial Education Commission".  
28

##### 6-1-702. Purpose.

30 It is the purpose of this subchapter to:

31 (1) Provide financial literacy education programs to all  
32 geographic areas and socioeconomic backgrounds; and

33 (2) Promote the importance of saving for education.  
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35 6-1-703. Arkansas Financial Education Commission – Creation – Members  
36 – Powers.



1 (a) There is established the Arkansas Financial Education Commission.

2 (b)(1) The commission shall be administered by a board of directors.

3 (2)(A) The board shall consist of nine (9) members.

4 (B) Members of the board shall consist of:

5 (i) The Treasurer of State or his or her designee,  
6 and who shall serve as chair;

7 (ii) The Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary  
8 Education or his or her designee;

9 (iii) The Securities Commissioner or his or her  
10 designee;

11 (iv) The Bank Commissioner or his or her designee;

12 (v) One (1) member who is designated by the Arkansas  
13 Bankers Association;

14 (vi) One (1) member who is a member of a federally-  
15 chartered credit union doing business in this state, appointed by the  
16 Treasurer of State; and

17 (vii) Three (3) members who have various financial  
18 backgrounds, one (1) member of the three (3) to be a female, one (1) member  
19 of the three (3) to be a racial minority, appointed by the Treasurer of  
20 State.

21 (3)(A) Members shall serve for two-year terms.

22 (B) A vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the  
23 Treasurer of State for the unexpired term.

24 (C) New members shall be appointed every two (2) years.

25 (D) Members may be reappointed.

26 (4) Members shall select by majority vote:

27 (A) One (1) member to serve as vice chair;

28 (B) One (1) member to serve as secretary; and

29 (C) One (1) member to serve as treasurer.

30 (5)(A) Members shall serve without compensation.

31 (B) Members may receive compensation for travel and  
32 personal expenses made on behalf of the board if funds are appropriated for  
33 expense reimbursement according to § 25-16-902.

34 (c)(1) The chair shall call the first meeting of the board.

35 (2) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

36 (3) A majority vote of those members present shall be required

1 for any action of the board.

2 (4)(A) The board shall meet at least two (2) times a year, one  
3 (1) meeting to be held in the spring and one (1) meeting to be held in the  
4 fall, at the call of the chair.

5 (B) The board shall meet in Little Rock, Arkansas.

6 (C) All meetings shall be recorded and made available to  
7 the public to ensure transparency.

8 (d) The board may:

9 (1) Incorporate the commission as a nonprofit corporation under  
10 the Arkansas Nonprofit Corporation Act of 1993, § 4-33-101 et seq., and after  
11 incorporation as a nonprofit corporation, to apply for tax exempt status  
12 under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3), as it existed on January 1, 2021;

13 (2) Have all the rights and powers of a nonprofit corporation  
14 under federal and state law upon incorporation as a nonprofit corporation;

15 (3) Request information from any state agency or political  
16 subdivision of the state that receives state funds to enable the commission  
17 to perform the duties required by this subchapter;

18 (4) Enter into mutual agreements with any state agency, local  
19 government, subdivision of the state or local government, or any for-profit  
20 or nonprofit entity to:

21 (A) Allow the commission to use any facility within the  
22 control or jurisdiction of the entity; or

23 (B) Render any services by an entity to the commission or  
24 by the commission to the entity if the services are for or in connection with  
25 the commission's activities;

26 (5) Make, execute, and deliver contracts, conveyances, and other  
27 instruments necessary to the exercise and discharge of the powers and duties  
28 of the board;

29 (6) Contract for services necessary for the management and  
30 operation of the commission and for the development, management, and  
31 implementation of the financial literacy educational plans and programs  
32 described under this subchapter;

33 (7) Contract with consultants as necessary to carry out the  
34 responsibilities under this subchapter;

35 (8) Promote, advertise, and publicize the activities of the  
36 commission; and

1 (9) Coordinate and promote financial literacy education efforts  
2 at the state and local level, including promoting partnerships among state  
3 and local governments, nonprofit organizations including the commission, and  
4 private entities.

5 (e) The commission is part of the Treasurer of State and shall use the  
6 staff of the Treasurer of State.

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8 6-1-704. Duties of the Arkansas Financial Education Commission.

9 The duties of the Arkansas Financial Education Commission include:

10 (1) Appointing as temporary director of the commission, a member  
11 of the Section 529 Plan Review Committee, as described in § 6-84-105, and if  
12 necessary, appoint a new and independent director of the commission;

13 (2) Raising funds for financial literacy educational plans and  
14 programs, excluding a regulator who:

15 (A) Is a member of the board of directors of the  
16 commission; and

17 (B) Shall not directly or indirectly participate in the  
18 commission's fundraising activities;

19 (3)(A) Managing and implementing financial literacy educational  
20 plans and programs.

21 (B) A financial literacy education plan or program  
22 described in subdivision (3)(A) of this section includes without limitation  
23 financial literacy educational programs for elementary and secondary school  
24 students;

25 (4) Providing education in all aspects of financial matters;

26 (5) Creating a website to make financial resources available to  
27 all Arkansans that covers a wide range of financial topics;

28 (6) Creating and providing awards to individuals and  
29 organizations that help improve financial literacy throughout the state; and

30 (7)(A) Working with other state agencies in providing financial  
31 literacy education and topics to schools in the state.

32 (B) The topics shall include:

33 (i) Earning a livable income;

34 (ii) Balancing a checkbook and bank account;

35 (iii) Use of credit cards and managing debt;

36 (iv) Saving for postsecondary education;

- 1 (v) Retirement and long-term financial planning; and
- 2 (vi) Investing.

3

4 6-1-705. Funding.

5 (a) The Arkansas Financial Education Commission may raise funds  
6 through sponsorship and other means approved by the commission for the  
7 purpose of promoting financial literacy in the state.

8 (b) Funds that are raised shall be used for the following plans and  
9 programs including without limitation:

- 10 (1) Promotion of financial literacy programs;
- 11 (2) Purchasing financial literacy materials; and
- 12 (3) Travel expenses of the commission.

13 (c) Any balance remaining at the end of the fiscal year shall be  
14 carried forward into the next fiscal year for the benefit and use of the  
15 commission.

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17 6-1-706. Rules.

18 The board of directors of the Arkansas Financial Education Commission  
19 shall adopt rules to implement and administer this subchapter.

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21 SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Rules.

22 (a) When adopting the initial rules required under this act, the  
23 Treasurer of State shall file the final rules with the Secretary of State for  
24 adoption under § 25-15-204(f):

- 25 (1) On or before January 1, 2022; or
- 26 (2) If approval under § 10-3-309 has not occurred by January 1,  
27 2022, as soon as practicable after approval under § 10-3-309.

28 (b) The Treasurer of State shall file the proposed rules with the  
29 Legislative Council under § 10-3-309(c) sufficiently in advance of January 1,  
30 2022, so that the Legislative Council may consider the rules for approval  
31 before January 1, 2022.

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33 */s/ Irvin*

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35 **APPROVED: 4/29/21**