

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

As Engrossed: S1/27/15 S3/3/15

A Bill

SENATE BILL 5

5 By: Senator Hickey
6 *By: Representative C. Douglas*
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO MODIFY THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
10 ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - PART 2; TO
11 CLARIFY FUNDING AMOUNTS AND PROVISIONS; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES.
13
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Subtitle

15 TO MODIFY THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
16 FOR THE ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP
17 PROGRAM - PART 2; AND TO CLARIFY FUNDING
18 AMOUNTS AND PROVISIONS.
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-85-201 is amended to read as follows:
25 6-85-201. Findings.

26 The General Assembly finds that:

27 (1) In approving Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 87, the
28 citizens of this state provided an opportunity to increase the resources
29 provided for higher education scholarships and grants through a state
30 lottery; ~~and~~

31 (2) The net proceeds from the state lottery, in addition to
32 existing nonlottery state educational resources for scholarships and grants,
33 will:

34 (A) Encourage associate degree, certificate of proficiency
35 program, and technical certificate program recipients and university juniors
36 to complete a baccalaureate degree;



1 (B) Provide opportunities for students more than one (1)
2 year out of high school to enter or reenter higher education;

3 (C) Provide an improved system of communication to
4 students and parents about opportunities for higher education scholarships
5 and grants in Arkansas; and

6 (D) Provide an evaluation and analysis of all state
7 funding for scholarships and grants and how the funding advances the state's
8 goals for higher education-; and

9 (3) Changes to the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship
10 Program – Part 2 may be necessary from time to time to ensure the solvency of
11 the program by spreading the program liabilities over a period of time while
12 ensuring that there are scholarship dollars available for students who
13 successfully complete their courses.

14
15 *SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-85-207(1) and (2), concerning the*
16 *eligibility requirements for traditional students, are amended to read as*
17 *follows:*

18 *"(1)(A) Graduated from an Arkansas public high school and has+*
19 *~~(i) Successfully completed the Smart Core curriculum~~*
20 *~~established by the Department of Education; and~~*

21 *~~(ii) Either:~~*
22 *~~(a) Achieved a high school grade point average~~*
23 *~~of at least 2.5; or~~*

24 *~~(b) Had a minimum composite score of nineteen~~*
25 *~~(19) on the ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent.~~*

26 *~~(B) Graduated from an Arkansas public high school before~~*
27 *~~the 2013-2014 school year, but did not complete the Smart Core curriculum, he~~*
28 *~~or she shall have achieved a high school grade point average of at least 2.5~~*
29 *~~and either:~~*

30 *~~(i) Have a minimum composite score of nineteen (19)~~*
31 *~~on the ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent; or~~*

32 *~~(ii) Scored proficient or higher on all state-~~*
33 *~~mandated end-of-course assessments, including without limitation end-of-~~*
34 *~~course assessments on:~~*

35 *~~(a) Algebra I;~~*

36 *~~(b) Geometry; and~~*

1 ~~(e) Biology;~~
 2 (2) Has a disability identified under the Individuals with
 3 Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq., as it existed on July
 4 1, 2009, and graduated from an Arkansas public high school ~~but did not~~
 5 ~~complete the Smart Core curriculum because the applicant's individualized~~
 6 ~~education program under § 6-41-217 did not require it, achieved a high school~~
 7 ~~grade point average of at least 2.5, and either:~~
 8 (A) Had a minimum composite score of nineteen (19) on the
 9 ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent; or
 10 (B) Scored proficient or higher on all state-mandated end-
 11 of-course assessments, including without limitation end-of-course assessments
 12 on:
 13 (i) Algebra I;
 14 (ii) Geometry;
 15 (iii) Biology; and
 16 (iv) ~~Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year,~~
 17 ~~literacy Literacy; or~~
 18

19 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(1), concerning scholarship
 20 award amounts, is amended to read as follows:

21 (e)(1)(A) Beginning with the ~~2013-2014~~ 2015-2016 academic year, the
 22 scholarship award amount under this subchapter for an academic year for a
 23 full-time recipient enrolled in a four-year approved institution of higher
 24 education is:

25 (i) ~~Two thousand dollars (\$2,000)~~ One thousand
 26 dollars (\$1,000) for a recipient in his or her freshman year;
 27 (ii) ~~Three thousand dollars (\$3,000)~~ Four thousand
 28 dollars (\$4,000) for a recipient in his or her sophomore year;
 29 (iii) Four thousand dollars (\$4,000) for a recipient
 30 in his or her junior year; and
 31 (iv) Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for a recipient
 32 in his or her senior year.

33 (B) The Department of Higher Education shall not accept
 34 new applications for scholarships for current achiever students under § 6-85-
 35 209 after June 1, 2012.
 36

1 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(2)(A)(ii), concerning
2 scholarship award amounts, is amended to read as follows:

3 (ii) Beginning with the 2014-2015 academic year, the
4 department shall award an aggregate amount of scholarship awards to
5 nontraditional students of up to sixteen million dollars (\$16,000,000).
6

7 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(3)-(6), concerning scholarship
8 award amounts, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as
9 follows:

10 (3) The scholarship award for an academic year for a full-time
11 student enrolled in one (1) of the following institutions of higher education
12 is two thousand dollars (\$2,000) one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for the first
13 year and three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for the second year:

14 (A) A two-year approved institution of higher education;

15 (B) A branch campus of a four-year approved institution of
16 higher education; or

17 (C) An approved nursing school.

18 (4) The scholarship award amount for a part-time student
19 recipient shall be:

20 (A) One-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the award amount for a full-time
21 student recipient, if the recipient is enrolled in at least six (6) semester
22 hours but less than nine (9) semester hours; or

23 (B) Three-quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the award amount for a full-time
24 student recipient, if the recipient is enrolled in at least nine (9) semester
25 hours but less than the number of hours required for a full-time student
26 recipient.

27 (5) A current recipient who maintains eligibility for the
28 scholarship under this subchapter shall continue to receive the scholarship
29 award amount first awarded to the recipient.

30 (6) The department shall give priority for a scholarship award
31 to a full-time or part-time student:

32 (A) Who meets the eligibility requirements under this
33 subchapter; and

34 (B) Whose parent, by birth or legal adoption:

35 (i) Was a resident of the State of Arkansas at the
36 time that person entered the service of the United States Armed Forces or

1 whose official residence is in Arkansas; and

2 (ii) Was a member of the United States Armed Forces
3 who was killed while performing military duty:

4 (a) In a status identified under 32 U.S.C. §
5 101 et seq. or 10 U.S.C. § 101 et seq. as they existed on January 1, 2011; or

6 (b) In state active duty status.

7
8 *SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(i), concerning scholarship award*
9 *amounts, is amended to read as follows:*

10 (i)(1) *If the department has less than a sufficient amount from net*
11 *proceeds from the state lottery to provide for the scholarship commitments*
12 *under this subchapter, the department shall give priority for continued*
13 *financial support under this subchapter to a ~~recipient who has~~ student with*
14 *continuing eligibility superior to first-time applicants.*

15 (2) *If the funding is ~~still~~ insufficient to fully fund the*
16 *scholarships for students with continuing eligibility created under this*
17 *subchapter, the department shall award scholarships ~~after considering~~*
18 *applicants based upon the following criteria to students with continuing*
19 *eligibility as follows:*

20 (A) *With First, to students who have the highest level of*
21 *progress toward completion of a certificate, an associate degree, or a*
22 *baccalaureate degree and who are enrolled in a program of study that is:*

23 (i) *In an area of critical workforce need as*
24 *determined by the department; or*

25 (ii) *In a science, technology, engineering, or*
26 *mathematics field;*

27 (B) *Second, to students who have the highest level of*
28 *progress toward completion of a certificate, an associate degree, or a*
29 *baccalaureate degree and who are enrolled in a program of study other than*
30 *those listed in subdivision (i)(2)(A) of this section; and*

31 (C) *With Last, in the event funding is insufficient to*
32 *fully fund students under subdivision (i)(2)(A) or (B) of this section, to*
33 *students who have the highest ~~high school~~ or postsecondary grade point*
34 *average, as applicable to the applicant; and*

35 (C) *~~Who are enrolled in or intend to enroll in a program~~*
36 *~~of study that is:~~*

1 ~~(i) In an area of critical workforce need as~~
2 ~~determined by the department; or~~

3 ~~(ii) In a science, technology, engineering, or~~
4 ~~mathematics field.~~

5 (3)(A) If after funding all students with continuing eligibility
6 under this section funding is insufficient to fund all qualified first-time
7 applicants, the department shall award scholarships to first-time applicants
8 in order of priority based upon the applicants' highest ACT or ACT equivalent
9 scores.

10 (B) If after prioritizing first-time applicants based upon
11 the applicants' ACT or ACT equivalent scores funding is insufficient to fund
12 all applicants with like ACT or ACT equivalent scores, the department shall
13 determine who receives an award by random drawing.

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15 /s/Hickey
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