

.As Engrossed: 3/6/91

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **78th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1991**

A BILL ACT 875 OF 1991
HOUSE BILL 1368

4 **By: Reps. M. Wilson, Hutchinson, Givens and Watts**

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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO ALLOW FULL-TIME CERTIFIED LAW ENFORCEMENT
9 OFFICERS EMPLOYED BY POLICE DEPARTMENTS WITHIN THE STATE
10 OF ARKANSAS TO ATTEND STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS OF
11 HIGHER EDUCATION AND STATE-SUPPORTED TECHNICAL OR
12 VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS WITHOUT CHARGE FOR TUITION; AND FOR
13 OTHER PURPOSES."

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

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17 *SECTION 1. It is the purpose of this Act to provide educational*
18 *opportunities at Arkansas public institutions of higher education for*
19 *certified law enforcement officers to obtain baccalaureate degrees; to*
20 *establish an Arkansas Police Corps Program, including the creation of a*
21 *Commission authorized to promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to*
22 *implement a Police Corps Program in Arkansas; to create a Police Corps*
23 *Scholarship Program; to undertake the necessary planning and other actions*
24 *required to enable Arkansas to participate in the federal Police Corps*
25 *Program.*

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27 *SECTION 2. There is hereby established the Arkansas Police Corps*
28 *Planning Commission.*

29 *(a) The Commission shall be appointed by the Governor, effective July*
30 *1, 1991, and shall have eleven (11) members: the Director of the Department of*
31 *Higher Education; the Director of the Arkansas State Police; the Director of*
32 *the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy; a representative of the*
33 *Arkansas Municipal Police Association; a representative of the Arkansas*
34 *Sheriff's Association; a representative of the Arkansas Police Chiefs*
35 *Association; two (2) faculty or administrators from institutions of higher*
36 *education with accredited criminal justice programs; two (2) higher education*

1 financial aid administrators; and one (1) active certified law enforcement
2 officer.

3 (b) The Commission shall develop a state plan for implementation of the
4 Arkansas Police Corps Program:

5 (1) Such plan shall be based on results of a survey of Arkansas law
6 enforcement agencies to be completed by January 1, 1992 regarding projected
7 manpower needs over a five (5) year period.

8 (2) The plan shall include rules and regulations for operation of the
9 Arkansas Police Corps Program and the Arkansas Police Corps Scholarship
10 Program, to be promulgated by the Commission no later than January 1, 1992.

11 (c) The Police Corps Training Plan adopted by the Commission shall
12 provide for the screening and selection of police corps participants; state
13 procedures for assignment of participants in the Arkansas Police Corps to
14 state and local police forces; and such other rules and regulations as may be
15 necessary to provide for the training of program participants, operation of
16 the program, and administration of the scholarship program.

17 (d) Should the federal government create a national Police Corps
18 Program, the state Police Corps Planning Commission shall be the entity
19 designated to administer the state's participation in the federal program.

20 (e) Based on available funding, up to fifteen (15) Police Corps
21 scholarships shall be awarded by July 1, 1992 for full-time study at an
22 approved Arkansas institution of higher education.

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24 SECTION 3. The number of scholarships awarded annually under this
25 program cannot exceed the expected number of officers needed by Arkansas
26 police forces or other law enforcement agencies; this number shall be
27 determined from results of the statewide manpower survey required under
28 Section 2.

29 (a) In no case, however, shall the number of new scholarships awarded
30 each year through this program be greater than fifteen (15); additionally, the
31 total number of scholarships shall not exceed fifty (50) at any one time. Any
32 scholarships awarded under this program shall be contingent on the
33 availability of sufficient funds from a revenue source dedicated to this
34 purpose.

35 (b) Scholarship recipients shall receive a Police Corps scholarship
36 equal to the lesser of one thousand five hundred and fifty dollars (\$1,550) or

1 actual tuition costs. Scholarship awards shall be renewable for up to three
2 (3) additional years of full-time study, provided that recipients meet
3 continuing eligibility criteria established through program rules and
4 regulations.

5 (c) Each recipient shall be required to successfully complete the
6 Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy after completing a course of study
7 which results in receipt of a bachelor's degree.

8 (d) A scholarship recipient who fails to secure a full-time paid
9 position as a police officer or law enforcement officer within one (1) year of
10 graduating from college and from the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy
11 shall repay, with interest, the amount of any scholarship funds received under
12 this Act.

13 (e) Recipients of scholarship awards shall also be required to complete
14 one (1) full year of service as a full-time police or law enforcement officer
15 for each year of scholarship aid received under the program. Failure to meet
16 this service obligation shall mean that the scholarship recipient must repay,
17 with interest, the amount of any scholarship funds received under this Act.

18 (f) For academic years 1992-93 through 1996-97, eligible recipients
19 shall include current and prospective law enforcement officers. Beginning
20 with new scholarships awarded for the 1997-98 academic year, eligibility for
21 scholarships shall be limited to applicants who intend to enter the field of
22 law enforcement but are not employed, and have not worked previously, as law
23 enforcement officers.

24 (g) Scholarship recipients shall be selected by the Commission.
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26 SECTION 4. (a) The Department of Higher Education and the Police Corps
27 Planning Commission are authorized to promulgate rules and regulations for the
28 administration of this program, consistent with the purposes and requirements
29 of this Act.

30 (b) The Arkansas Police Corps Planning Commission is hereby designated
31 as the state agency responsible for implementing any federal law enforcement
32 scholarship program which may be established. The Commission shall have
33 authority to promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the administration
34 and operation of any such program in the State of Arkansas.
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