

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

Act 840 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas
2 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007
4

As Engrossed: H3/22/07

A Bill

SENATE BILL 839

5 By: Senators Argue, Baker
6 By: Representative Kenney
7
8

For An Act To Be Entitled

9
10 AN ACT TO AMEND THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR
11 THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP
12 PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
13

Subtitle

14
15 TO AMEND THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
16 FOR THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE
17 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.
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19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
21

22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1005 (b)(6)(D)(iv), concerning
23 eligibility for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is
24 amended to increase the family income levels to read as follows:

25 (iv) In calculating financial need for applicants
26 who graduate from an Arkansas high school after ~~December 31, 2004,~~ December
27 31, 2006, a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or a subsequent
28 application required by the United States Department of Education for federal
29 financial aid shall be filed by the applicant or other proof of family income
30 as defined by the Department of Higher Education. The following criteria
31 shall be used:

32 (a) An applicant whose family includes one (1)
33 unemancipated child shall have an average family adjusted gross income over
34 the previous two (2) years not exceeding ~~sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000)~~
35 sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000) per year at the time of application to



1 the program;

2 (b) An applicant whose family includes two (2)
3 unemancipated children shall have an average family adjusted gross income
4 over the previous two (2) years not exceeding ~~sixty-five thousand dollars~~
5 ~~(\$65,000)~~ seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) per year at the time of
6 application to the program;

7 (c) An applicant whose family includes three
8 (3) or more unemancipated children shall have an average family adjusted
9 gross income over the previous two (2) years not exceeding ~~seventy thousand~~
10 ~~dollars (\$70,000)~~ seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) per year at the
11 time of application to the program, plus for families with more than three
12 (3) unemancipated children, an additional five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per
13 year for each additional child; and

14 (d) Any applicant whose family includes more
15 than one (1) unemancipated child enrolled full time at an approved
16 institution of higher education shall be entitled to an additional ten
17 thousand dollars (\$10,000) of adjusted gross income for each additional
18 unemancipated child enrolled full time at an approved institution of higher
19 education when the Department of Higher Education calculates financial need.

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21 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
22 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the financial eligibility
23 requirements for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program must be
24 clarified; that clarification of the eligibility requirements for financial
25 need will help more Arkansas students enter and complete their post-secondary
26 education; and that this act is immediately necessary to prevent student
27 hardships and provide stability for the 2007-2008 school year. Therefore, an
28 emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for
29 the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become
30 effective on:

31 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

32 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
33 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
34 bill; or

35 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
36 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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/s/ Argue

APPROVED: 4/3/2007