

*.As Engrossed: 3/6/91*

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

# **A Bill**

**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*

1 education with accredited criminal justice programs; two (2) higher education  
2 financial aid administrators; and one (1) active certified law enforcement  
3 officer.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 (b) Scholarship recipients shall receive a Police Corps scholarship

1 equal to the lesser of one thousand five hundred and fifty dollars (\$1,550) or  
2 actual tuition costs. Scholarship awards shall be renewable for up to three  
3 (3) additional years of full-time study, provided that recipients meet  
4 continuing eligibility criteria established through program rules and  
5 regulations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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*SECTION 5. All provisions of this Act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.*

*SECTION 6. If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are declared to be severable.*

*SECTION 7. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.*

*/s/M. Wilson, et al*

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