

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

4 **By: Representatives Lipton, Jones, and Arnold**

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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE
9 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR ARKANSAS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WHO
10 COMPLETE THE RECOMMENDED PRECOLLEGIATE CORE CURRICULUM,
11 ENROLL AS FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN IN ARKANSAS COLLEGES AND
12 UNIVERSITIES, AND MEET OTHER CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE
13 DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION; TO DESIGNATE THE
14 DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO ADMINISTER THE ARKANSAS
15 ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER
16 PURPOSES."

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

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20 SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PUBLIC NECESSITY.
21 The General Assembly hereby recognizes that taking the proper coursework in
22 high school is essential for success in college. Arkansas high school
23 students who complete the recommended precollegiate core curriculum score
24 significantly higher on standardized preadmissions tests and are more likely
25 to be successful in college. Because the state of Arkansas also benefits from
26 the academic success of well-prepared college students, there is hereby
27 established the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, a guaranteed
28 college scholarship plan to promote academic achievement and encourage
29 academically-prepared Arkansas high school graduates to enroll in the state's
30 colleges and universities.

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32 SECTION 2. There is hereby created and established the Arkansas
33 Academic Challenge Scholarship Program. Recipients of the scholarships funded
34 through this program shall be known as academic challenge award recipients.

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1 SECTION 3. For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be
2 defined as indicated:

3 (a) "Approved institution" means a public or private college or
4 university located in Arkansas that is accredited by the North Central
5 Association Commission on Institutions of Higher Education; further, such
6 institution shall not discriminate against applicants, students or employees
7 on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, or national origin,
8 consistent with the provisions of applicable state and federal law.

9 (b) "Full-time undergraduate student" means a resident of Arkansas who
10 attends an approved institution of higher education and is enrolled for at
11 least twelve (12) credit hours per semester or the equivalent, as defined by
12 the Department of Higher Education, in a program of study which leads to or is
13 creditable towards a baccalaureate degree.

14 (c) "Eligible student" means any student who meets the criteria set out
15 by this Act and is deemed to be eligible by rules and regulations authorized
16 by this Act and promulgated by the Department of Higher Education.

17 (d) "Financial need" is defined to mean the family income of program
18 applicants as determined by the Department of Higher Education through
19 evaluation of program applications and supporting documentation.

20 (e) "Tuition" shall mean charges levied for attendance at an eligible
21 institution of higher education; for purposes of this Act, tuition charges
22 shall not include any fees charged or used for student activities, including
23 any student athletic fees.

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25 SECTION 4. Eligibility for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship
26 Program shall be based on the criteria set forth in this section as well as
27 program rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this Act by the Department
28 of Higher Education. A student shall be eligible for an award from this
29 program if he or she meets all of these criteria:

30 (a) The recipient shall have graduated from an Arkansas high school
31 within twelve (12) months of enrolling as a full-time first-time freshman at
32 an approved institution of higher education.

33 (b) The recipient shall have been a resident of the state of Arkansas
34 for at least twelve (12) months prior to graduation from an Arkansas high
35 school, and the recipient's parent(s) or guardian(s) shall have maintained

1 Arkansas residency for the same period of time.

2 (c) The recipient must be a citizen of the United States or be a
3 permanent resident alien.

4 (d) The recipient must be accepted for admission at an approved
5 institution of higher education as a full-time first-time freshman, as defined
6 by the Department of Higher Education, and must enroll in an approved
7 institution within twelve (12) months of high school graduation.

8 (e) The recipient must have successfully completed the precollegiate
9 core curriculum established by the State Boards of Education and Higher
10 Education pursuant to Act 98 of 1989. Further, the recipient must satisfy
11 these criteria:

12 (1) The recipient must have achieved a grade point average of 3.0
13 in the set of core curriculum courses; or

14 (2) The recipient who successfully completed two or more Advanced
15 Placement courses which have been awarded by the College Board must have
16 achieved a grade point average of 2.5 in the set of precollegiate core
17 curriculum courses established by the State Boards of Education and Higher
18 Education pursuant to Act 98 of 1989; or

19 (3) The Department of Higher Education is authorized to develop
20 selection criteria through program rules and regulations which combine an
21 applicant's ACT (or equivalent) score and grade point average in the core
22 curriculum into a selection index. This selection index shall be employed
23 such that applicants whose ACT (or equivalent) score is above minimum
24 eligibility criteria shall be exempt from sections 4(e)(1) and 4(e)(2) if they
25 meet all other provisions of this Act.

26 (f) The recipient must demonstrate financial need as defined by the
27 Department of Higher Education. In calculating recipient financial need, the
28 following criteria shall be used:

29 (1) An applicant whose family includes one unemancipated child
30 under the age of 21 shall have average family adjusted gross income over the
31 previous two years not exceeding \$30,000 per year at the time of application
32 to the program.

33 (2) An applicant whose family includes two unemancipated children
34 under the age of 21 shall have average family adjusted gross income over the
35 previous two years not exceeding \$35,000 per year at the time of application

1 to the program.

2 (3) An applicant whose family includes three or more unemancipated
3 children under the age of 21 shall have average family adjusted gross income
4 over the previous two years not exceeding \$30,000 per year plus \$5,000 per
5 year times the number of unemancipated children under the age of 21 at the
6 time of application to the program.

7 (4) The Department of Higher Education shall have the authority to
8 adjust these financial need family income requirements on an annual basis,
9 using the federal Consumer Price Index as a basis to make any necessary
10 changes.

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12 SECTION 5. (a) Students who receive scholarships under the program
13 authorized by this Act shall be known as Arkansas Academic Challenge
14 Scholarship award recipients.

15 (b) An eligible recipient shall receive a scholarship for one academic
16 year, renewable for up to three additional academic years if the recipient
17 meets continuing eligibility criteria established by the Department of Higher
18 Education.

19 (c) The amount of the annual scholarship awarded to each recipient shall
20 be the lesser of \$1,000 or the annual tuition charged by the approved
21 institution in which the recipient is enrolled, tuition shall meant the
22 charges defined in Section 3(e) of this Act.

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24 SECTION 6. The Department of Higher Education is authorized by this Act
25 to develop and promulgate rules and regulations for the administration of the
26 Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, consistent with the purposes
27 and requirements of this Act. The rules and regulations shall include student
28 eligibility criteria based on the provisions of this Act, the method for
29 selecting scholarship recipients, rules for determining continuing
30 eligibility, procedures for making payment to recipients, and such other
31 administrative procedures which may be necessary for the implementation and
32 operation of the program.

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34 SECTION 6. CODE. All provisions of this Act of a general and permanent
35 nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas

1 Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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

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