

*As Engrossed: 2/12/93*

1 **State of Arkansas**

2 **79th General Assembly**

3 **Regular Session, 1993**

4 **By: Representatives Thicksten, Mahony, Allen and Roberts**

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## **For An Act To Be Entitled**

8 "AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED §§ 6-82-1001, 6-  
9 82-1004, and 6-82-1005 TO PERMIT SECONDARY STUDENTS WHO  
10 HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE TECHNICAL PREPARATION CORE  
11 CURRICULUM TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC  
12 CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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### **Subtitle**

15 "TO PERMIT CERTAIN STUDENTS COMPLETING THE TECH PREP  
16 CURRICULUM TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC  
17 CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM."

18

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

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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1001 is hereby amended to read as  
22 follows:

23 "6-82-1001. Legislative findings and declarations of public necessity.

24 The General Assembly hereby recognizes that taking the proper coursework  
25 in high school is essential for success in college. Arkansas high school  
26 students who complete the recommended precollegiate or technical preparation  
27 core curriculum score significantly higher on standardized preadmissions tests  
28 and are more likely to be successful in college. Because the State of  
29 Arkansas also benefits from the academic success of well-prepared college  
30 students, there is hereby established the Arkansas Academic Challenge  
31 Scholarship Program, a guaranteed college scholarship plan to promote academic  
32 achievement and encourage academically prepared Arkansas high school graduates  
33 to enroll in the state's colleges and universities."

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35 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1004(e) is hereby amended to read as

1 follows:

2           "(e) The Departments of Education and Higher Education are directed to  
3 develop appropriate informational materials on the Arkansas Academic Challenge  
4 Scholarship Program and insure their distribution to Arkansas students in  
5 grades kindergarten through twelve (12) each year as part of the packet of  
6 materials on precollegiate and technical preparation distributed by the  
7 Department of Education as mandated by §§ 6-61-111, 6-61-217, 6-61-218, and 6-  
8 18-101(c)(2). This shall be accomplished through the use of school  
9 counselors."

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11           SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1005 is hereby amended to read as  
12 follows:

13           "6-82-1005. Eligibility.

14           (a) Eligibility for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program  
15 shall be based on the criteria set forth in this section as well as program  
16 rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this subchapter by the Department of  
17 Higher Education.

18           (b)(1) A student shall be eligible for an award from this program if he  
19 or she meets all of these criteria:

20                       (A) The recipient shall have graduated from an Arkansas  
21 high school on or after March 5, 1991, and within twenty-four (24) months of  
22 enrolling as a full-time first-time freshman at an approved institution of  
23 higher education;

24                       (B) The recipient shall have been a resident of the State  
25 of Arkansas for at least twelve (12) months prior to graduation from an  
26 Arkansas high school and the recipient's parent or parents or guardian or  
27 guardians shall have maintained Arkansas residency for the same period of  
28 time;

29                       (C) The recipient must be a citizen of the United States or  
30 be a permanent resident alien;

31                       (D) The recipient must be accepted for admission at an  
32 approved institution of higher education as a full-time first-time freshman,  
33 as defined by the Department of Higher Education, and must enroll in an  
34 approved institution within twenty-four (24) months of high school graduation;  
35 and

1                   (E) The recipient must have successfully completed the  
2 precollegiate or technical preparation core curriculum established by the  
3 State Boards of Education and Higher Education pursuant to §§ 6-61-111,  
4 6-61-217, 6-61-218, and 6-18-101(c)(2). *For the purposes of this act, the*  
5 *technical preparation core curriculum shall refer to those courses reviewed by*  
6 *a peer review committee composed of high school and college faculty in the*  
7 *appropriate disciplines and equivalent to similar courses in the precollegiate*  
8 *core curriculum.*

9                   (2) Further, the recipient must satisfy these criteria:

10                   (A) The recipient must have achieved a grade point average  
11 of 2.5 in the set of precollegiate or technical preparation core curriculum  
12 courses; and

13                   (B) The recipient must score nineteen (19) or above on the  
14 ACT Composite, or the equivalent as defined by the Department of Higher  
15 Education.

16                   (3) The student must demonstrate financial need as defined by the  
17 Department of Higher Education. In calculating student financial need for  
18 applicants who graduate from an Arkansas high school after May 1, 1991, the  
19 following criteria shall be used:

20                   (A) An applicant whose family includes one (1)  
21 unemancipated child under the age of twenty-one (21) shall have average family  
22 adjusted gross income over the previous two (2) years not exceeding  
23 thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) per year at the time of application to  
24 the program. If the applicant is an adopted child who was at least twelve (12)  
25 years of age at the time of adoption, and the applicant's family includes one  
26 (1) unemancipated adopted child under twenty-one (21) years of age, the  
27 adoptive family's average adjusted gross income for the previous two (2) years  
28 shall not exceed forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) per year.

29                   (B) An applicant whose family includes two (2)  
30 unemancipated children under the age of twenty-one (21) shall have average  
31 family adjusted gross income over the previous two (2) years not exceeding  
32 forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) per year at the time of application to the  
33 program. If the applicant is an adopted child who was at least twelve (12)  
34 years of age at the time of adoption, and the applicant's family includes two  
35 (2) unemancipated adopted children under twenty-one (21) years of age, the

1 adoptive family's average adjusted gross income for the previous two (2) years  
2 shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) per year.

3                   (C) An applicant whose family includes three (3) or more  
4 unemancipated children under the age of twenty-one (21) shall have average  
5 family adjusted gross income over the previous two (2) years not exceeding  
6 forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) per year at the time of application to  
7 the program, plus, for families with more than three (3) unemancipated  
8 children under the age of twenty-one (21), an additional five thousand dollars  
9 (\$5,000) per year for each additional child. If the applicant is an adopted  
10 child who was at least twelve (12) years of age at the time of adoption, and  
11 the applicant's family includes three (3) unemancipated adopted children under  
12 twenty-one (21) years of age, the adoptive family's average adjusted gross  
13 income for the previous two (2) years shall not exceed sixty thousand dollars  
14 (\$60,000) per year, plus, for families with more than three (3) unemancipated  
15 adopted children under the age of twenty-one (21), an additional ten thousand  
16 dollars (\$10,000) per year for each additional child.

17                   (c) The Department of Higher Education is authorized to develop  
18 selection criteria through program rules and regulations which combine an  
19 applicant's ACT, or equivalent, score and grade point average in the  
20 precollegiate or technical preparation core curriculum into a selection index.  
21 Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (b) (2) (A) and (b) (2) (B) of  
22 this section, this selection index shall be employed as an alternative  
23 selection process for applicants who achieve a grade point average above 2.5  
24 in the set of precollegiate or technical preparation core curriculum courses  
25 defined in subdivision (b) (1) (E) of this section, or for applicants who have  
26 an ACT Composite, or equivalent, score greater than nineteen (19).

27                   (d) Starting in 1993-94, the required grade point average in the set of  
28 precollegiate or technical preparation core curriculum courses defined in  
29 subdivision (b) (1) (E) shall be 3.0, unless it is determined by the Department  
30 of Higher Education, based on review and evaluation of the program's operation  
31 in 1991-93, that this change would unduly reduce the number of low income or  
32 disadvantaged students who would otherwise be eligible for the program.

33                   (e) Students who meet the provisions of subdivisions (b) (1) (A) - (C), but  
34 have not completed the precollegiate or technical preparation core curriculum  
35 defined in subdivision (b) (1) (E) by the end of the senior year of high school,

1 shall have the grace period of twenty-four (24) months, established for this  
2 purpose in subdivision (b) (1) (A) and (D), in which to make up any course or  
3 ACT score deficiencies required for program eligibility.

4 (f) The Department of Higher Education shall have the authority to  
5 adjust these financial need family income requirements on an annual basis,  
6 using the federal Consumer Price Index to make any necessary changes. Other  
7 financial need criteria necessary for the selection of recipients, including  
8 those defined as emancipated or independent by federal student aid  
9 regulations, shall be established through rules and regulations issued by the  
10 Department of Higher Education."

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12 SECTION 4. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature  
13 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code  
14 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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16 SECTION 5. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to  
17 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
18 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without  
19 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
20 act are declared to be severable.

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22 SECTION 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
23 hereby repealed.

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25 /s/E. Thicksten, et al

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