

As Engrossed: 3/10/93

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **79th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1993**
4 **By: Representative Mahony**

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1841

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

14 "TO PERMIT STUDENTS WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE TECH
15 PREP CORE CURRICULUM TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE ARKANSAS
16 ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP."

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

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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1005 is hereby amended to read as
22 follows:

23 "6-82-1005. Eligibility.

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

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

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

34 (B) The recipient shall have been a resident of the State
35 of Arkansas for at least twelve (12) months prior to graduation from an

1 Arkansas high school, and the recipient's parent or parents or guardian or
2 guardians shall have maintained Arkansas residency for the same period of
3 time;

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

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

11 (E) The recipient must have successfully completed the
12 precollegiate core curriculum or technical preparation core curriculum
13 established by the State Boards of Education and Higher Education pursuant to
14 §§ 6-61-111, 6-61-217, 6-61-218, and 6-18-101(c)(2). For purposes of this
15 section, the technical preparation core curriculum shall refer to those
16 courses reviewed by a peer review committee composed of high school and
17 college faculty in the appropriate disciplines and equivalent to similar
18 courses in the precollegiate core curriculum.

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

20 (A) The recipient must have achieved a grade point average
21 of 2.5 in the set of core curriculum courses; and

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

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

29 (A) An applicant whose family includes one (1)
30 unemancipated child under the age of twenty-one (21) shall have average family
31 adjusted gross income over the previous two (2) years not exceeding
32 thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) per year at the time of application to
33 the 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 one
35 (1) unemancipated adopted child 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 forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) per year.

3 (B) An applicant whose family includes two (2)
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 thousand dollars (\$40,000) per year at the time of application to the
7 program. If the applicant is an adopted child who was at least twelve (12)
8 years of age at the time of adoption, and the applicant's family includes two
9 (2) unemancipated adopted children under twenty-one (21) years of age, the
10 adoptive family's average adjusted gross income for the previous two (2) years
11 shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) per year.

12 (C) An applicant whose family includes three (3) or more
13 unemancipated children under the age of twenty-one (21) shall have average
14 family adjusted gross income over the previous two (2) years not exceeding
15 forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) per year at the time of application to
16 the program, plus, for families with more than three (3) unemancipated
17 children under the age of twenty-one (21), an additional five thousand dollars
18 (\$5,000) per year for each additional child. If the applicant is an adopted
19 child who was at least twelve (12) years of age at the time of adoption, and
20 the applicant's family includes three (3) unemancipated adopted children under
21 twenty-one (21) years of age, the adoptive family's average adjusted gross
22 income for the previous two (2) years shall not exceed sixty thousand dollars
23 (\$60,000) per year, plus, for families with more than three (3) unemancipated
24 adopted children under the age of twenty-one (21), an additional ten thousand
25 dollars (\$10,000) per year for each additional child.

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

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

7 (e) Students who meet the provisions of subdivisions (b)(1)(A)-(C), but
8 have not completed the precollegiate core curriculum defined in subdivision
9 (b)(1)(E) by the end of the senior year of high school, shall have the grace
10 period of twenty-four (24) months, established for this purpose in subdivision
11 (b)(1)(A) and (D), in which to make up any course or ACT score deficiencies
12 required for program eligibility.

13 (f) Students who meet the provisions of subdivisions (b)(1)(A)-(C) and
14 who have completed the technical preparation core curriculum as established by
15 § 6-18-101(c)(2), but have not completed courses equivalent to those in the
16 precollegiate core curriculum defined in subdivision (b)(1)(E), shall be
17 eligible to receive scholarship funds for one (1) semester to remove the
18 course deficiencies. Failure by the student to remove these deficiencies by
19 the end of the semester shall result in the student forfeiting any future
20 eligibility for *the Academic Challenge Scholarship Program*. *The provisions of*
21 *this subsection shall remain in effect until the end of the 1996-97 academic*
22 *year.*

23 (g) The Department of Higher Education shall have the authority to
24 adjust these financial need family income requirements on an annual basis,
25 using the federal Consumer Price Index to make any necessary changes. Other
26 financial need criteria necessary for the selection of recipients, including
27 those defined as emancipated or independent by federal student aid
28 regulations, shall be established through rules and regulations issued by the
29 Department of Higher Education."

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31 SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
32 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
33 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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35 SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to

1 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
2 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
3 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
4 act are declared to be severable.

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6 SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
7 hereby repealed.

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/s/Jodie Mahony

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