

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.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 84th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2003

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2350

4  
5 By: Representative Mahony  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS TEACHING CHALLENGE  
10 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

## Subtitle

12  
13 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS TEACHING  
14 CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.  
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 82, Subchapter 15 is amended  
20 to add the following language:

21 6-82-1506. Arkansas Teaching Challenge Scholarship Program.

22 (a) The purpose of the Arkansas Teaching Challenge Scholarship Program  
23 is to attract to the teaching profession persons who have expressed interest  
24 in teaching and to support the certification of those persons as classroom  
25 teachers.

26 (b) An Arkansas Teaching Challenge Scholarship is available only to a  
27 person who receives an Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship under §§ 6-82-  
28 1001 through 6-82-1005, applies for an Arkansas Teaching Challenge  
29 Scholarship, and is enrolled as a junior or senior in a baccalaureate degree  
30 program if:

31 (1) The degree program is in a teaching field certified by the  
32 Department of Education as experiencing a critical shortage of teachers in  
33 this state in the year in which the person begins the degree program; or

34 (2) The person agrees to teach in a public school in this state  
35 in a community, which is not required to be specifically designated at the  
36 time the person receives the grant, designated by the Department of Education



1 as experiencing a critical shortage of teachers in any year in which the  
 2 person receives a grant under this section or in any subsequent year in which  
 3 the person fulfills the teaching obligation.

4 (c) To receive an Arkansas Teaching Challenge Scholarship, a person  
 5 must agree to teach full-time for five (5) school years at the preschool,  
 6 primary, or secondary level in a public school in this state in the person's  
 7 chosen critical field or in a community experiencing a critical teacher  
 8 shortage, as applicable.

9 (d)(1) The amount of an Arkansas Teaching Challenge Scholarship under  
 10 this section shall be equal to two (2) times the amount of an Arkansas  
 11 Academic Challenge Scholarship authorized under § 6-82-1006 for the same  
 12 semester or term.

13 (2) A person may receive both an Arkansas Academic Challenge  
 14 Scholarship under § 6-82-1005 and an Arkansas Teaching Challenge Scholarship  
 15 under this section for the same semester or term.

16 (e)(1) The person must begin fulfilling the teaching obligation of  
 17 this section no later than the eighteenth (18<sup>th</sup>) month after the person  
 18 completes the degree program and any related courses required for teacher  
 19 certification, unless the Department of Higher Education grants the person  
 20 additional time to begin fulfilling the teaching obligation.

21 (2) The person must complete the teaching obligation no later  
 22 than the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) year after the date the person begins to fulfill the  
 23 teaching obligation.

24 (3) The Department of Higher Education shall grant a person  
 25 additional time to complete the teaching obligation for good cause.

26 (f) The Department of Higher Education shall cancel a person's  
 27 teaching obligation if the board determines that the person:

28 (1) Has become permanently disabled so that the person is not  
 29 able to teach; or

30 (2) Has died.

31 (g)(1) The Department of Higher Education shall require a person who  
 32 receives a Teaching Challenge Scholarship under this section to sign a  
 33 promissory note acknowledging the conditional nature of the grant and  
 34 promising to repay the amount of the scholarship plus applicable interest and  
 35 reasonable collection costs if the person does not satisfy the applicable  
 36 conditions.

1           (2) The Department of Higher Education shall determine the terms  
2 of the promissory note.

3           (h) The amount required to be repaid by a person who fails to complete  
4 the teaching obligation of the person's grant shall be determined in  
5 proportion to the portion of the teaching obligation that the person has not  
6 satisfied.

7           (i) A person receiving an Arkansas Teaching Challenge Scholarship is  
8 considered to have failed to satisfy the conditions of the scholarship, and  
9 the scholarship automatically becomes a loan, if the person fails to remain  
10 enrolled in or to make steady progress in the degree program for which the  
11 scholarship was made without good cause as determined by the Department of  
12 Higher Education, or if the person fails to become certified as a teacher not  
13 later than the eighteenth (18<sup>th</sup>) month after the date the person receives a  
14 degree.

15           (j) The requirements of this section shall be contingent on the  
16 appropriation and receipt of sufficient funds.

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