

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.

Act 1218 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas  
2 87th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2009  
4

As Engrossed: S3/10/09

A Bill

SENATE BILL 856

5 By: Senators Broadway, Salmon, Bookout  
6 By: Representatives J. Roebuck, Abernathy, M. Burris  
7  
8

9 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

10 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY FOR THE ARKANSAS  
11 DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN GOVERNOR'S  
12 SCHOLARS PROGRAM AWARDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
13

14 **Subtitle**

15 TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY FOR THE ARKANSAS  
16 DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN  
17 GOVERNOR'S SCHOLARS PROGRAM AWARDS.  
18  
19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-82-302(5) concerning the definition of  
23 "eligible student" is amended to read as follows:

24 (5) "Eligible student" means a resident of the State of Arkansas  
25 as defined by the Department of Higher Education who:

26 (A) is ~~is~~ eligible for admission as a full-time student;  
27 ~~and~~ (B) who declares ~~who declares~~ Declares an intent to matriculate in an  
28 approved institution in Arkansas; and

29 (C) Graduates from:  
30 (i) A high school in this state, for Arkansas  
31 Governor's Scholars; or  
32 (ii) A high school, for Arkansas Governor's  
33 Distinguished Scholars;  
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35 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-82-304(7) concerning the Arkansas



1 Governor's Scholars Program is amended to read as follows:

2 (7) Determine the necessary procedures for the awarding of  
3 scholarships ~~should if~~ the number of eligible applicants ~~exceed~~ exceeds the  
4 available funds available or available awards.

5  
6 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-82-306(b) concerning eligibility for the  
7 Arkansas Governor's Scholars Program is amended to read as follows:

8 (b) A student is eligible for this scholarship if he or she:

9 (1) ~~The individual has met~~ Meets the admission requirements and  
10 is accepted for enrollment as a full-time undergraduate student in an  
11 eligible public or private college or university in Arkansas;

12 (2)(A) ~~The individual is~~ Is a bona fide resident of the state,  
13 as defined by the ~~department~~ Department of Higher Education.

14 (B) Preference will be given to students who plan to enter  
15 college at the beginning of the academic year directly following their last  
16 year of high school attendance;

17 (3) ~~The individual is~~ Is a citizen of the United States or a  
18 permanent resident alien;

19 (4) Graduates from:

20 (A) A high school in this state, for Arkansas Governor's  
21 Scholars; or

22 (B) A high school, for Arkansas Governor's Distinguished  
23 Scholars;

24 ~~(4)(5)~~(A) ~~The applicant has demonstrated~~ Demonstrates  
25 proficiency in the application of knowledge and skills in reading and writing  
26 literacy and mathematics by passing the end-of-course examination as may be  
27 developed by the Department of Education, and as may be designated by the  
28 Department of Higher Education for this purpose.

29 (B) "End-of-course" examination ~~shall mean~~ means those  
30 examinations defined in § 6-15-419~~(9)~~; and

31 ~~(5)(6)~~(A) ~~The individual satisfactorily meets~~ Satisfies the  
32 qualifications of superior academic ability as established by the Department  
33 of Higher Education with ~~such~~ criteria consisting of value points for  
34 academic achievement and leadership, including, ~~but not limited to~~ without  
35 limitation:

36 (i) American College Test (ACT) or Scholastic

1 Aptitude Test (SAT) score, National Merit Finalist, or National Achievement  
2 Finalist;

3 (ii) High school grade point average;  
4 (iii) Rank in high school class; and  
5 (iv) Leadership in school, community, and  
6 employment.

7 (B) The Department of Higher Education ~~shall have the~~  
8 ~~authority to~~ may alter the weight assigned to the individual criterion to  
9 more appropriately meet the needs of the state as determined by the Arkansas  
10 Higher Education Coordinating Board.

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12 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-82-308(b), concerning the distribution  
13 of scholarships, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as  
14 follows:

15 (3) If there are more eligible applicants than available  
16 scholarships, the department may determine a procedure for awarding  
17 additional scholarships while not exceeding available funds.

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19 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-82-311(c)(3) concerning the term, renewal  
20 and allocation of scholarships is amended to read as follows:

21 (3) The recipient has successfully completed a total of at least  
22 twenty-seven (27) hours during the first full academic year and, if  
23 applicable, a total of at least thirty (30) hours per academic year  
24 thereafter; and

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26 SECTION 6. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
27 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that new scholarships under the  
28 Arkansas Governor's Scholars Program need to be awarded to students  
29 graduating high school in May of 2009; that the Department of Higher  
30 Education needs sufficient time to solicit and receive scholarship  
31 applications; and that this act is necessary for the proper administration of  
32 the Arkansas Governor's Scholars Program. Therefore, an emergency is declared  
33 to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the  
34 public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

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(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

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(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,

1 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the  
2 bill; or

3 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
4 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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*/s/ Broadway*

**APPROVED: 4/7/2009**