

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

# A Bill

**ACT 720 OF 1993**  
**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:

20  
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  
36 Arkansas high school, and the recipient's parent or parents or guardian or

1 guardians shall have maintained Arkansas residency for the same period of  
2 time;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 shall not exceed forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) per year.

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

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

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

35 (d) Starting in 1993-94, the required grade point average in the set of

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

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

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

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

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

33  
34 SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to  
35 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect

1 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without  
2 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
3 act are declared to be severable.

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

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*/s/Jodie Mahony*

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APPROVED: 3/25/93

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