

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

As Engrossed: S3/16/17

A Bill

SENATE BILL 542

5 By: Senator Hickey
6 By: Representative C. Douglas
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
10 CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE
11 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
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Subtitle

15 TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
16 CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC
17 CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.
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19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-85-204(6), concerning the definition of*
23 *"continuously enrolled" in the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship*
24 *Program, is amended to read as follows:*

25 *(6) "Continuously enrolled" means:*

26 *(A) For a traditional student, he or she successfully*
27 *completes at an approved institution of higher education twenty-seven (27)*
28 *semester hours in the first academic year as a recipient and successfully*
29 *completes thirty (30) semester hours each academic year thereafter, ~~not~~*
30 *~~including any summer term;~~*

31 *(B) For a full-time nontraditional student, he or she*
32 *successfully completes at an approved institution of higher education at*
33 *least fifteen (15) semester hours of courses in consecutive semesters, ~~not~~*
34 *~~including a summer term;~~*

35 *(C) For a full-time current achiever student, he or she:*

36 *(i) Before receiving a scholarship under this*



1 subchapter, successfully completed at least twelve (12) semester hours of
2 courses in consecutive semesters, ~~not including a summer term~~; and

3 (ii) As a recipient of a scholarship under this
4 subchapter, successfully completes at an approved institution of higher
5 education at least fifteen (15) semester hours of courses in consecutive
6 semesters, ~~not including a summer term~~;

7 (D) For a part-time nontraditional student, he or she
8 successfully completes at an approved institution of higher education at
9 least six (6) semester hours of courses in consecutive semesters, ~~not~~
10 ~~including a summer term~~; and

11 (E) For a student who is enrolled in a degree plan that
12 has a maximum number of semester hours in a semester that is less than the
13 requirements of subdivisions (5)(A)-(D) of this section, he or she
14 successfully completes at an approved institution of higher education the
15 maximum number of hours required by the degree plan for the semester;

16
17 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-85-207(4)(C), as amended by Acts 2017,
18 No. 315, § 1, concerning additional eligibility requirements for traditional
19 students, is amended to read as follows:

20 (C) Successfully completed at least twenty-seven (27)
21 semester hours of courses ~~in consecutive semesters, not including a summer~~
22 ~~term~~, as a full-time, first-time freshman; and

23
24 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-85-210(a), concerning continuing
25 eligibility, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

26 (4) A recipient may attend summer terms at the student's own
27 expense to earn credit hours necessary to maintain eligibility for a
28 scholarship under this subchapter.

29
30 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-85-210(c), concerning continuing
31 eligibility, is amended to read as follows:

32 (c)(1)(A) ~~If a recipient becomes ineligible for the scholarship~~
33 ~~because the recipient's postsecondary grade point average or number of~~
34 ~~successfully completed credit hours no longer meets the minimum requirement~~
35 ~~for the scholarship, the recipient may regain eligibility under this~~
36 ~~subsection one (1) time only in the academic year in which the student became~~

1 ~~ineligible.~~

2 ~~(B) The Department of Higher Education shall by rule~~
3 ~~define "academic year".~~

4 ~~(2)(A) A traditional student recipient who becomes ineligible~~
5 ~~loses eligibility for a scholarship may use this subsection to become~~
6 ~~eligible apply as a first-time nontraditional student applicant but may not~~
7 ~~use this subsection again to regain lost eligibility for the nontraditional~~
8 ~~student scholarship.~~

9 ~~(B)(2) A recipient under subdivision (c)(1) of this~~
10 ~~section who loses eligibility for the nontraditional student scholarship and~~
11 ~~does not regain eligibility under subdivision (e)(1) of this section is not~~
12 ~~eligible to apply for a scholarship under any eligibility provision of this~~
13 ~~subchapter.~~

14 ~~(3) The recipient shall complete the requirements for regaining~~
15 ~~eligibility under this subsection:~~

16 ~~(A) In the same academic year in which the student failed~~
17 ~~to maintain eligibility; and~~

18 ~~(B) At the student's own expense.~~

19 ~~(4) Except as provided under § 6-85-211(a)(3) and unless the~~
20 ~~requirements of this subsection are waived by the department under subsection~~
21 ~~(d) of this section, to regain eligibility for the scholarship:~~

22 ~~(A)(i) As a traditional or nontraditional full-time~~
23 ~~student, the student shall:~~

24 ~~(a) Successfully complete at least fifteen~~
25 ~~(15) semester hours of courses for credit for which the approved institution~~
26 ~~of higher education certifies that the courses meet the satisfactory academic~~
27 ~~progress standards of the institution; and~~

28 ~~(b) Achieve a 2.5 grade point average for the~~
29 ~~semester hours completed under this subdivision (e)(4)(A).~~

30 ~~(ii) A traditional student who does not regain~~
31 ~~eligibility under subdivision (e)(4)(A)(i) of this section is ineligible to~~
32 ~~reapply for a scholarship as a traditional student but may apply as a~~
33 ~~nontraditional student; and~~

34 ~~(B) As a nontraditional part-time student, the student~~
35 ~~shall:~~

36 ~~(i) Successfully complete at least six (6) semester~~

1 ~~hours of courses for credit for which the approved institution of higher~~
2 ~~education certifies that the courses meet the satisfactory academic progress~~
3 ~~standards of the institution; and~~
4 ~~(ii) Achieve a 2.5 grade point average for the~~
5 ~~semester hours successfully completed under this subdivision~~
6 ~~(c)(4)(B).~~

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/s/Hickey

APPROVED: 03/28/2017