

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 341 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: H2/16/07 H2/26/07

2 86th General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2007

HOUSE BILL 1487

4
5 By: Representatives Blount, E. Brown, Cash, Davis, George, House, D. Hutchinson, J. Johnson, W.
6 Lewellen, Medley, Pennartz, Pyle, Rainey, J. Roebuck, L. Smith, Webb

7 By: Senator Brown

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10 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

11 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE EARLY LITERACY SKILLS OF
12 ARKANSAS CHILDREN BY CREATING A LITERACY SKILLS
13 COMPONENT TO THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE
14 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

15
16 **Subtitle**

17 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE EARLY LITERACY
18 SKILLS OF ARKANSAS CHILDREN BY CREATING
19 A LITERACY SKILLS COMPONENT TO THE
20 ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP
21 PROGRAM.

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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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26 SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND FINDINGS.

27 (a) The purpose of this act is to prevent or minimize the continued
28 early reading failure of Arkansas children and to reduce the long-term effect
29 of inadequate literacy skills on the performance of Arkansas children as a
30 group and on their economic future.

31 (b) The General Assembly finds that:

32 (1) Available well-trained tutors can help improve literacy
33 skills in young students, create a more favorable atmosphere for learning,
34 provide more time on task, increase opportunities to read, provide immediate,
35 positive and corrective feedback to help the young student stay on track, and



1 help close achievement gaps early; and

2 (2) Creating a literacy skills component to the Arkansas
3 Academic Challenge Scholarship Program will help advance academic performance
4 in both the Arkansas Academic Challenge scholar and the younger student who
5 receives tutoring from the scholar.

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7 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1005, concerning eligibility for the
8 Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to add an
9 additional subsection to read as follows:

10 (e) As an additional component to the Arkansas Academic Challenge
11 Scholarship:

12 (1) Each applicant for the scholarship shall agree that for each
13 year the scholarship is awarded he or she may volunteer to serve as a
14 literacy tutor for a minimum of twenty (20) clock hours each semester in a
15 public school or a faith-based educational institution serving students in
16 prekindergarten through grade six (Pre-K-6);

17 (2) A recipient who agrees to volunteer as a literacy tutor:

18 (A) Shall complete the prerequisite training in literacy
19 and college readiness skills provided under § 6-82-1006(d) before he or she
20 begins tutoring; and

21 (B) May receive college credit for the tutoring as
22 determined by the institution of higher education awarding the scholarship;
23 and

24 (3) An enrolled college student who participates in the tutorial
25 program and fails to meet the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship
26 academic eligibility requirement for the fall or spring semester shall be
27 given the probationary opportunity during the subsequent spring or summer
28 term to continue his or her education and improve academic performance prior
29 to losing scholarship funding in the subsequent semester.

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31 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1006, concerning the duration and
32 amount of the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship, is amended to add an
33 additional subsection to read as follows:

34 (d)(1) A recipient who agrees to volunteer as a literacy tutor under §
35 6-82-1005(e) shall receive the prerequisite training in literacy and college
36 readiness from an accredited Arkansas institution of higher education.

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(2) The Department of Education shall develop the training modules for the prerequisite literacy training.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1004, concerning the authority of the Department of Higher Education for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(h) The Department of Higher Education shall report to the General Assembly annually regarding the implementation of the provisions of this subchapter.

/s/ Blount, et al

APPROVED: 3/19/2007