

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 139

5 By: Senator J. Dismang
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR
9 CERTAIN SCHOLARSHIPS; TO ALLOW A STUDENT APPLYING FOR
10 THE ARKANSAS GOVERNOR'S SCHOLARS PROGRAM OR THE
11 CRITICAL NEEDS MINORITY TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
12 TO USE HIS OR HER ACT SUPERSCORE; AND FOR OTHER
13 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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16 TO ALLOW A STUDENT APPLYING FOR THE
17 ARKANSAS GOVERNOR'S SCHOLARS PROGRAM OR
18 THE CRITICAL NEEDS MINORITY TEACHER
19 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO USE HIS OR HER ACT
20 SUPERSCORE.
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-82-302(6), concerning the definition of
27 "extraordinary academic ability" under the Arkansas Governor's Scholars
28 Program, is amended to read as follows:

29 (6)(A) "Extraordinary academic ability" means:

30 (i) Achievement of a ~~score~~ superscore, as defined by
31 § 6-85-204(25), of 32 or above on the ACT or a score of 1410 or above on the
32 SAT; and

33 (ii) Either:

34 ~~(i)~~(a) For students graduating from high
35 school after December 31, 2001, achievement of a high school grade point
36 average of 3.5 or above on a 4.0 scale; or



1 (b) Selection as a finalist in either the
2 National Merit Scholarship competition, the National Hispanic Recognition
3 Program, or the National Achievement Scholarship competition conducted by the
4 National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

5 (B) For students graduating after December 31, 2001, the
6 ACT ~~scores~~ superscores and SAT scores shall be earned by December 31 prior to
7 the application deadline in order for the scores to be considered by the
8 Division of Higher Education for a scholarship award;

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10 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1503(c), concerning the selection
11 criteria under the Critical Needs Minority Teacher Scholarship Program, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 (c)(1) The university is authorized to develop selection criteria
14 through Critical Needs Minority Teacher Scholarship Program rules, which
15 combine an applicant’s ACT superscore, as defined by § 6-85-204(25), or ACT
16 equivalent score and grade point average in the core curriculum into a
17 selection index.

18 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (b)(1) and
19 ~~(b)~~(2) of this section, this selection index shall be employed as an
20 alternative selection process for applicants who achieve a grade point
21 average below 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or for applicants who have an ACT composite
22 superscore or ACT equivalent score greater than nineteen (19).

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25 **APPROVED: 4/19/21**
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