

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 274 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas  
2 86th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2007  
4

As Engrossed: S2/15/07 H3/5/07

**A Bill**

SENATE BILL 203

5 By: Senators Madison, *Baker*  
6 By: Representative *Pickett*  
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**For An Act To Be Entitled**

10 AN ACT TO REPEAL THE REQUIREMENT THAT COLLEGE  
11 JUNIORS TAKE THE COLLEGIATE ASSESSMENT OF  
12 ACADEMIC PROFICIENCY EXAM, THE "RISING JUNIOR  
13 EXAM"; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
14

**Subtitle**

15 AN ACT TO REPEAL THE RISING JUNIOR EXAM.  
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18

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-61-114 is repealed.

22 ~~6-61-114. Standardized rising junior test—Annual report.~~

23 ~~(a)(1) Until such time as the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating~~  
24 ~~Board approves other assessment processes or exams to be used by Arkansas~~  
25 ~~colleges and universities, the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency~~  
26 ~~Exam, known as the "rising junior exam", shall be the required exam to be~~  
27 ~~taken by all Arkansas public college and university students at the end of~~  
28 ~~the sophomore year to evaluate student learning in the general education~~  
29 ~~curriculum established under § 6-61-218, the results of which shall be~~  
30 ~~evaluated in light of each institution's mission and goals.~~

31 ~~(2)(A) On or before the October 2001 meeting of the board, the~~  
32 ~~Department of Higher Education shall recommend to the board criteria and~~  
33 ~~guidelines to use when considering the adequacy of other assessment processes~~  
34 ~~or exams proposed for use at Arkansas public colleges and universities in~~  
35 ~~lieu of the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency Exam.~~



1                   ~~(B) The criteria and guidelines proposed by the department~~  
2 ~~shall be developed in consultation with the Executive Council of the~~  
3 ~~Presidents Council.~~

4                   ~~(3) After receiving the recommendation of the department, the~~  
5 ~~board shall promulgate rules and set guidelines for approving alternative~~  
6 ~~processes or exams for use by Arkansas public colleges and universities in~~  
7 ~~lieu of the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency Exam and shall~~  
8 ~~provide the guidelines to the Arkansas public colleges and universities.~~

9                   ~~(4) After the board has adopted rules and guidelines, public~~  
10 ~~colleges and universities may request approval of other assessment processes~~  
11 ~~or exams to be taken by that institution's students or used by the~~  
12 ~~institution at the end of the sophomore year to evaluate student learning in~~  
13 ~~the general education curriculum established under § 6-61-218, the results of~~  
14 ~~which shall be evaluated in light of each institution's mission and goals.~~

15                   ~~(b) Except as provided in subsection (a) of this section, the "rising~~  
16 ~~junior test" shall be given annually by all public colleges and universities~~  
17 ~~in Arkansas, with the first statewide administration to take place by the end~~  
18 ~~of the 1994-1995 academic year.~~

19                   ~~(c) The board, after consultation with the public colleges and~~  
20 ~~universities, is hereby authorized to adopt policies and procedures to~~  
21 ~~implement this section.~~

22                   ~~(d) These policies and procedures shall be implemented by the public~~  
23 ~~colleges and universities as a condition of receiving state funds.~~

24                   ~~(e)(1) The board shall report the statewide test results on an annual~~  
25 ~~basis to the House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate Interim~~  
26 ~~Committee on Education.~~

27                   ~~(2) The board shall provide a status report regarding approval~~  
28 ~~of alternative processes or exams as set forth in subsection (a) of this~~  
29 ~~section to the House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate Interim~~  
30 ~~Committee on Education on or before December 31, 2002.~~

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32                   SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-82-311(c), concerning the Arkansas  
33 Governor's Scholarship and the Arkansas Governor's Distinguished Scholarship,  
34 is amended to read as follows:

35                   (c) Provided sufficient funds are available, a scholarship shall be  
36 awarded for one (1) academic year and renewed annually for three (3)

1 additional academic years if the following conditions for renewal are met:

2 (1) The student maintains not less than a 3.0 grade point  
3 average on a 4.0 scholastic grading scale;

4 (2) A student receiving the additional scholarship under § 6-82-  
5 312(b) maintains not less than a 3.25 grade point average on a 4.0 scholastic  
6 grading scale;

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

10 ~~(4) If the student is entering the junior year, the student has~~  
11 ~~taken the standardized rising junior test provided for in § 6-61-114; and~~

12 ~~(4)~~ The recipient has met any other continuing eligibility  
13 criteria established by the Department of Higher Education.

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15 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1006(b), concerning the Arkansas  
16 Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to read as follows:

17 (b) A recipient who graduated from high school after December 31,  
18 2000, shall receive a scholarship for one (1) academic year renewable for up  
19 to three (3) additional academic years if the recipient meets the following  
20 continuing eligibility criteria:

21 (1) The recipient earns a cumulative grade point average of 2.75  
22 or above on a 4.0 scale at an approved institution;

23 (2) The recipient has completed a total of at least twenty-seven  
24 (27) hours during the first full academic year and a total of at least thirty  
25 (30) hours per academic year thereafter; and

26 ~~(3) If the student is entering the junior year, the student has~~  
27 ~~taken the standardized rising junior test provided for in § 6-61-114; and~~

28 ~~(4)~~ The recipient meets any other continuing eligibility  
29 criteria established by the department.

30  
31 /s/ Madison

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33 APPROVED: 3/14/2007