

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023  
4

As Engrossed: H4/3/23

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1772

5 By: Representative L. Johnson  
6 By: Senator B. Davis  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND  
10 NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING WORKFORCE SCHOLARSHIP,  
11 STIPEND, AND INCENTIVE PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER  
12 PURPOSES.  
13

## Subtitle

16 TO CREATE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND  
17 NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING WORKFORCE  
18 SCHOLARSHIP, STIPEND, AND INCENTIVE  
19 PROGRAM.  
20

21  
22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
23

24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 81, is amended to add an  
25 additional subchapter to read as follows:

26 Subchapter 19 – Psychological and Neuropsychological Testing Workforce  
27 Scholarship, Stipend, and Incentive Program  
28

29 6-81-1901. Creation.

30 There is created the Psychological and Neuropsychological Testing  
31 Workforce Scholarship, Stipend, and Incentive Program to be administered by  
32 the Arkansas Psychology Board in accordance with the provisions of this  
33 subchapter.  
34

35 6-81-1902. Legislative findings and intent.

36 (a) The General Assembly finds that:



1           (1) Neuropsychological testing services are necessary services  
2 for the citizens of the State of Arkansas in order to provide access to and  
3 inform a broad range of clinical services, psychoeducational services, and  
4 legal and quasi-legal decision-making skills, including without limitation  
5 child custody evaluations, forensic evaluations, and occupationally mandated  
6 psychological and neuropsychological evaluations; and

7           (2) There is a workforce shortage and a need for education and  
8 training to promote the workforce pipeline for these clinical services.

9           (b) It is the intent of this subchapter that the Arkansas Psychology  
10 Board shall approve scholarships, stipends, and incentives, such as loan  
11 repayment assistance, based on standards established by the General Assembly  
12 and the board for individuals pursuing career paths that address the  
13 workforce shortage for these clinical services.

14  
15           6-81-1903. Psychological and Neuropsychological Testing Workforce  
16 Scholarship, Stipend, and Incentive Program – Funding.

17           (a) Cash funds for the Psychological and Neuropsychological Testing  
18 Workforce Scholarship, Stipend, and Incentive Program shall consist of:

19                   (1) Funds appropriated for the program;

20                   (2) Federal funds;

21                   (3) Gifts;

22                   (4) Grants;

23                   (5) Bequests;

24                   (6) Devises;

25                   (7) Donations;

26                   (8) Interest and other income accruing to or earned by the  
27 funds; and

28                   (9) All moneys provided by law.

29           (b) The Arkansas Psychology Board:

30                   (1) May invest the principal, interest, and income of the funds;  
31 and

32                   (2) Shall use the funds for program scholarships, stipends, and  
33 incentives.

34  
35           6-81-1904. Arkansas Psychology Board – Powers and duties.

36           (a) The Arkansas Psychology Board shall:

1           (1) Prescribe forms to be used for the Psychological and  
2 Neuropsychological Testing Workforce Scholarship, Stipend, and Incentive  
3 Program;

4           (2) Monitor the submission of applications for scholarships,  
5 stipends, or incentives;

6           (3) Determine eligibility of applicants;

7           (4) Allow or reject applications for scholarships, stipends, or  
8 incentives;

9           (5) Contract for, increase, decrease, terminate, and otherwise  
10 monitor all scholarships, stipends, and incentives made under this  
11 subchapter; and

12           (6) Manage, operate, and control all funds and property  
13 appropriated or otherwise contributed for purposes of funding this program.

14           (b) The board may:

15           (1) Accept gifts, grants, bequests, devises, donations, and any  
16 federal funds available for the program, to be used together with funds  
17 appropriated for the program for making scholarships, stipends, and  
18 incentives under this subchapter; and

19           (2) Hire a qualified person or entity to administer the program.  
20

21           6-81-1905. Eligibility and requirements for scholarships.

22           The Arkansas Psychology Board may award a scholarship, stipend, or  
23 incentive under the Psychological and Neuropsychological Testing Workforce  
24 Scholarship, Stipend, and Incentive Program available to an applicant who:

25           (1) Is a bona fide resident of Arkansas; and

26           (2) Is:

27           (A) Enrolled in good standing or has been accepted for  
28 admission to a program as a:

29           (i) Psychology student or trainee who is pursuing a  
30 bachelor's degree to obtain status as a technician according to the  
31 requirements of § 17-97-401 et seq. and the board; or

32           (ii) Master level or doctoral psychology student or  
33 trainee who has been placed in an approved training site that is focused on  
34 psychological or neuropsychological testing under the supervision of a  
35 licensed psychologist; or

36           (B) A licensed psychological examiner or licensed

1 psychologist who provides psychological or neuropsychological testing  
2 services.

3  
4 6-81-1906. Scholarship, stipend, and incentive – Amount.

5 (a) The Arkansas Psychology Board may award a scholarship to cover  
6 tuition and the required coursework to an applicant who has been accepted for  
7 admission or is enrolled in good standing in a program as a psychology  
8 student or trainee who is pursuing a bachelor's degree to obtain status as a  
9 technician according to the requirements of § 17-97-401 et seq. and the  
10 board.

11 (b) The board may award a stipend to support required training  
12 experience to an applicant who has been accepted for admission or is enrolled  
13 in good standing in a program as a master level or doctoral psychology  
14 student or trainee who has been placed in an approved training site that is  
15 focused on psychological or neuropsychological testing under the supervision  
16 of a licensed psychologist.

17 (c) The board may provide loan forgiveness assistance to an applicant  
18 who is a licensed psychological examiner or licensed psychologist who  
19 provides psychological or neuropsychological testing services.

20 (d) The board may provide a financial incentive to an applicant who  
21 agrees to work full time for at least two (2) years in Arkansas providing  
22 psychological or neuropsychological testing services following his or her  
23 educational training.

24  
25 6-81-1907. Renewal.

26 (a) Subject to the availability of funds, each scholarship, stipend,  
27 or incentive awarded to an applicant under this subchapter shall be renewable  
28 annually for the number of years required to complete a qualifying program  
29 under this subchapter.

30 (b) Each scholarship, stipend, or incentive awarded to an applicant  
31 under this subchapter subsequent to his or her initial receipt of a  
32 scholarship, stipend, or incentive shall be made only upon application of the  
33 recipient and upon a finding by the Arkansas Psychology Board that the  
34 applicant meets all qualifications under this subchapter and board rules.

35  
36 6-81-1908. Rules.

1           The Arkansas Psychology Board may adopt rules consistent with this  
2 subchapter to effectively and efficiently carry out the purposes of this  
3 subchapter.

4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36

*/s/L. Johnson*

**APPROVED: 4/13/23**