

**Hall of the House of Representatives**  
84th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2003  
**Amendment Form**

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**Subtitle of House Bill No. 1854**

"AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAM TO GIVE PRIORITY IN AWARDS TO APPLICANTS AGREEING TO TEACH  
IN SUBJECT MATTER AREAS OF CRITICAL NEED OR IN ACADEMICALLY LOW  
PERFORMING SCHOOLS."

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**Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 1854.**

Amend House Bill No. 1854 as originally introduced:

Add Senators Baker, Broadway, and Laverty, as cosponsors of the bill

AND

Add Representatives C. Johnson, Dickinson, Mahony, Stovall, and White as  
cosponsors of the bill

AND

Page 1, delete lines 12 through 13, and substitute the following:  
"AREAS OF CRITICAL NEED OR GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS OF CRITICAL NEED; TO CREATE A  
GRADUATED AWARD SCALE FOR NEW RECIPIENTS OF AN ACADEMIC CHALLENGE AWARD; TO  
GIVE THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY TO MAKE AWARDS TO STUDENTS  
WHO DID NOT RECEIVE AN AWARD BECAUSE OF FUNDING SHORTAGES; AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES."

AND

Page 1, delete line 21, and substitute the following:  
"GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS OF CRITICAL TEACHER SHORTAGE IN THE STATE."

AND

Delete everything following the enacting clause and substitute the following:  
"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1001 is amended to read as follows:  
6-82-1001. Legislative findings and declarations of public necessity.  
The General Assembly hereby recognizes that taking the proper course  
work in high school is essential for success in college. Arkansas high  
school students who complete the recommended precollegiate or technical



preparation core curriculum score significantly higher on standardized preadmissions tests and are more likely to be successful in college. Because the State of Arkansas also benefits from the academic success of well-prepared college students, there is hereby established the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, a college scholarship plan to promote academic achievement and encourage academically prepared Arkansas high school graduates to enroll in the state's colleges and universities, and to encourage students to enter the field of teaching for the purpose of teaching in subject matter areas of critical teacher shortage or in geographical areas of critical teacher shortage in the state.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1006 is amended to read as follows:  
6-82-1006. Duration - Amount.

(a) A recipient who graduated from high school before January 1, 2001, shall receive a scholarship for one (1) academic year renewable for up to three (3) additional academic years if the recipient meets continuing eligibility criteria established by the Department of Higher Education and if sufficient funds are available for that purpose.

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

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

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

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

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

(c)(1) For recipients who graduated from high school between January 1, 1995, and December 31, 1996, the amount of the annual scholarship awarded to each recipient shall be the lesser of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) or the annual tuition charged by the approved institution in which the recipient is enrolled.

(2) For recipients who graduated from high school between January 1, 1997, and December 31, 1998, the amount of the annual scholarship awarded to each recipient shall be the lesser of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) or the annual tuition charged by the approved institution in which the recipient is enrolled.

(3) For ~~new~~ recipients who graduated from high school after December 31, 1998, the amount of the annual scholarship awarded to each recipient shall be two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500).

(4) For recipients who graduated from high school after December 31, 2001, the amount of the annual scholarship awarded to each recipient shall be graduated as follows:

(A) A recipient in his or her freshman year shall be awarded an amount not the exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000);

(B) A recipient in his or her sophomore year shall be awarded an amount not the exceed two thousand two hundred and fifty dollars (\$2,250);

(C) A recipient in his or her junior year shall be awarded an amount not the exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500); and

(D) A recipient in his or her senior year shall be awarded an amount not the exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000).

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 82, Subchapter 10 is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-82-1008. Awards not funded.

(a)(1) Any applicant who graduated after December 31, 2001, who was eligible to receive an academic challenge award, but did not receive the award because of insufficient funding in the program, may be eligible to receive a award to begin in a year other than the freshman year.

(2) Any student enrolled in an institution of higher education must have achieved at least a 2.0 cumulative grade point average to be eligible for a deferred award.

(b) The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the department shall promulgate regulations necessary for the implementation of this section.

(c) Any award made under this section shall have funding priority as follows:

(1) Awards shall first be made to individuals who made application prior to the original deadline during the individual's senior year in high school, received an award letter from the Department of Higher Education, did not receive an award because of insufficient funding, and are now eligible under this section;

(2) Awards shall be made second to the current year high school graduates who are for the first time eligible to receive an academic challenge award; and

(3) If sufficient funds are available after funding awards under subdivision (c)(1) and (c)(2) of this section, awards may be made to an individual who did not apply during his or her senior year in high school, but would have been eligible if the individual would have applied prior that year's deadline, and is now eligible under this section.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 82, Subchapter 10, is amended by adding an additional section to read as follows:

6-82-1009. Priority for teaching commitment.

(a) During times of funding shortages under the Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, the Department of Higher Education shall give a priority to awards to applicants meeting all eligibility requirements under the Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, who agree to accept a forgivable loan, as set forth in section § 6-82-1009, in lieu of a scholarship, and who agree to:

(1) Teach, as required under § 6-82-1010, in a subject matter area designated by the Department of Education as having a critical shortage of teachers; or

(2) Teach, as required under § 6-82-1010, in a geographical area of the state designated by the Department of Education as having a critical shortage of teachers.

(b) The Department of Higher Education shall make awards under this chapter as follows:

(1) First, to applicants who agree to the provisions of § 6-82-

1009; and

(2) Second, to applicants eligible under § 6-82-1005(b).

(c) Forgivable loans awarded under this section shall be paid from appropriations to the Academic Challenge Scholarship fund.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 82, Subchapter 10, is amended by adding an additional section to read as follows:

6-82-1010. Teaching requirements.

(a)(1) At the beginning of the first school year in which a recipient of a forgivable loan under § 6-82-1009 is eligible for employment as a licensed teacher, that recipient shall begin to render service as a licensed teacher in a public school district in the state:

(A) In a subject matter area designated by the Department of Education as having a critical shortage of teachers, if the recipient's award was made under § 6-82-1009(a)(1); or

(B) In a geographical area of the state designated by the Department of Education as having a critical shortage of teachers, if the recipient's award was made under § 6-82-1009(a)(2).

(2)(A) Any recipient receiving a forgivable loan under § 6-82-1009 who received four (4) annual awards, or the equivalent of four (4) annual awards, shall render four (4) years' service as a licensed teacher.

(B) Any person who received a forgivable loan under § 6-82-1009 in an amount less than four (4) annual awards, or the equivalent of four (4) annual awards, shall render one (1) year's service as a licensed teacher for each year that the person received a full-time student forgivable loan, or for the number of academic hours equivalent to one (1) school year, as determined by the Department of Higher Education, for which a part-time student received a forgivable loan.

(b) Any person receiving a forgivable loan shall execute a note made payable to the Department of Higher Education for an amount equal to the scholarship award each semester that shall bear interest at a rate to be determined by the Department of Higher Education and set forth in the note, after completion of the program or immediately after termination of the forgivable loan, whichever is earlier.

(c) Any person failing to complete a program of study which will enable the person to become a licensed teacher shall begin repaying the note according to the note's terms for the sum of all forgivable loan awards made to that person, less the corresponding amount of any awards for which service has been rendered.

(d)(1) Except as provided in subdivision (d)(1)(B), any person failing to complete the teaching obligation, as required by this chapter, shall become immediately liable to the Department of Higher Education for the sum of all forgivable loan awards made to that person, less the corresponding amount of any awards for which service has been rendered according to the note's terms.

(A) The Department of Higher Education may defer payment on the note if an employment position is not immediately available upon a teacher's completion of licensure requirements or for other just cause as determined by the Department of Education.

(B) After the period of deferral, the person shall begin or resume teaching duties as required under this section or shall become liable to the board under this section.

(e) If a claim for payment under this section is placed in the hands of an attorney for collection, the obligor shall be liable for an additional amount equal to a reasonable attorney's fee.

(f) The obligations made by the recipient of a forgivable loan under § 6-82-1009 and this section shall not be voidable by reason of the age of the student at the time of receiving the forgivable loan award."

The Amendment was read \_\_\_\_\_  
By: Representative Cleveland  
KAS/VJF - 040820031007  
VJF889 \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Clerk