

ARKANSAS SENATE
85th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2005
Amendment Form

Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 940

"AN ACT TO AMEND THE FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM."

Amendment No. 3 to Senate Bill No. 940.

Amend Senate Bill No. 940 as engrossed, S3/23/05 (version: 03-23-2005 14:15)

Page 1, delete line 6 and substitute:

"By: Representatives Burris, Kenny, Rainey, Mahony, Saunders"

AND

Delete the title in it entirely and substitute:

"AN ACT TO AMEND THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC
CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF THE AWARD; AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

AND

Delete the subtitle in its entirety and substitute:

"AN ACT TO AMEND THE ELIGIBILITY
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC
CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND TO
INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF THE AWARD."

AND

Delete everything following the enacting clause entirely and substitute the
following:

"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1002 is amended to read as follows:
6-82-1002. Definitions.

For purposes of this subchapter, the following terms shall be defined
as indicated:

(1)(A) ~~"Approved institution" means a public or private college,
university, or nursing school located in Arkansas that is approved by the
Arkansas State Board of Nursing and only under the conditions set forth in §
6-82-1007 or accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
of the North Central Association or that certifies to the Department of
Higher Education that its students are accepted for transfer at institutions~~



~~accredited by the commission.~~

~~(B) Furthermore, an approved institution shall not discriminate against applicants, students, or employees on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin, consistent with the provisions of applicable state and federal law public-supported or private, non-profit postsecondary institution with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that is eligible to receive Title IV Federal student aid funds or any nursing school with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that is eligible to participate in Title IV Federal student aid programs and has been approved by the Department of Higher Education as eligible to participate in the Academic Challenge Scholarship Program;~~

(2) "Eligible student" means any student who meets the criteria set out by this subchapter and who is deemed to be eligible by rules and regulations authorized by this subchapter and promulgated by the Department of Higher Education;

(3) "Financial need" means the family income of program applicants as determined by the Department of Higher Education through evaluation of program applications and supporting documentation;

(4)(A) "Full-time undergraduate student" means a resident of Arkansas who attends an approved institution of higher education and who is enrolled for at least twelve (12) credit hours the first semester and fifteen (15) hours thereafter or the equivalent, as defined by the Department of Higher Education, in a program of study that leads to or is creditable toward a baccalaureate degree, an associate degree in nursing, or a nursing school diploma.

(B) A recipient receiving an Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship for the eighth semester shall not be required to be enrolled in fifteen (15) hours and shall be considered a "full-time undergraduate student" if the recipient is enrolled in the appropriate number of course credit hours to earn a degree at the end of that semester.

(5) "Recipient" means an applicant awarded a scholarship funded through the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program;

(6) "Tuition" means charges levied for attendance at an eligible institution of higher education, including mandatory fees charged to all full-time students by an approved institution; and

(7) "Unemancipated child" or "unemancipated children" means a dependent child or dependent children as defined by the United States Department of Education for student aid purposes.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1005(b)(6)(D)(iii), concerning eligibility for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to read as follows:

(iii) In calculating financial need for applicants who ~~graduate~~ graduated from an Arkansas high school after December 31, 2000, but before December 31, 2004, the following criteria shall be used:

(a) An applicant whose family includes one (1) unemancipated child shall have average family adjusted gross income over the previous two (2) years not exceeding fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) per year at the time of application to the program;

(b) An applicant whose family includes two (2) unemancipated children shall have average family adjusted gross income over the previous two (2) years not exceeding fifty-five thousand dollars

(\$55,000) per year at the time of application to the program;

(c) An applicant whose family includes three (3) or more unemancipated children shall have average family adjusted gross income over the previous two (2) years not exceeding sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) per year at the time of application to the program, plus for families with more than three (3) unemancipated children, an additional five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per year for each additional child; and

(d) Any applicant whose family includes more than one (1) unemancipated child enrolled full time at an approved institution of higher education shall be entitled to an additional ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) of adjusted gross income for each additional child unemancipated child enrolled full time at an approved institution of higher education when the department calculates financial need.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1005(b)(6)(D), concerning eligibility for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(iv) In calculating financial need for applicants who graduate from an Arkansas high school after December 31, 2004, a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or a subsequent application required by the United States Department of Education for federal financial aid shall be filed by the applicant or other proof of family income as defined by the Department of Higher Education and the following criteria shall be used:

(a) An applicant whose family includes one (1) unemancipated child shall have average family adjusted gross income over the previous two (2) years not exceeding sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) per year at the time of application to the program;

(b) An applicant whose family includes two (2) unemancipated children shall have average family adjusted gross income over the previous two (2) years not exceeding sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000) per year at the time of application to the program;

(c) An applicant whose family includes three (3) or more unemancipated children shall have average family adjusted gross income over the previous two (2) years not exceeding seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) per year at the time of application to the program, plus for families with more than three (3) unemancipated children, an additional five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per year for each additional child; and

(d) Any applicant whose family includes more than one (1) unemancipated child enrolled full time at an approved institution of higher education shall be entitled to an additional ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) of adjusted gross income for each additional unemancipated child enrolled full time at an approved institution of higher education when the department calculates financial need.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1006(c)(4), concerning the amount of the Academic Challenge Scholarship award, is amended to read as follows:

(4) ~~For~~ Beginning with awards made for the 2005-2006 academic year 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 to exceed ~~two thousand dollars (\$2,000)~~ two thousand

five hundred dollars (\$2,500);

(B) A recipient in his or her sophomore year shall be awarded an amount not to exceed ~~two thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$2,250)~~ two thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$2,750);

(C) A recipient in his or her junior year shall be awarded an amount not to exceed ~~two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500)~~ three thousand dollars (\$3,000); and

(D) A recipient in his or her senior year shall be awarded an amount not to exceed ~~three thousand dollars (\$3,000)~~ three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500).

SECTION 5. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the financial eligibility requirements for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program must be clarified; that clarification of the eligibility requirements for financial need will help more Arkansas students enter and complete their post-secondary education; and that this act is immediately necessary to prevent student hardships and provide stability for the 2005-2006 school year. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto."

AND

If appropriate, renumber the remaining sections of the bill

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and _____

By: Senator J. Jeffress

KAC/TAT - 03-24-2005 14:02

KAC774

Secretary