

Hall of the House of Representatives
90th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2015
Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Bill No. 1552

TO ESTABLISH THE SUCCEED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.

Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 1552

Amend House Bill No. 1552 as originally introduced:

Page 2, line 4, delete "(1)" and substitute "(1)(A)"

AND

Page 2, delete line 5 and substitute the following:

"attended public school for at least one (1) full academic year.

(B) If the student is a dependent of an active duty member of any branch of the United States armed forces, subdivision (1)(A) of this section does not apply;"

AND

Page 2, line 24, delete "disabilities" and substitute "severe disabilities"

AND

Page 2, delete line 29 and substitute the following:

"of Education, the Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association or its successor, or another accrediting association recognized by the State Board of Education as providing services to severely disabled individuals;"

AND

Page 3, delete line 15 and substitute the following:

"website.

(d)(1) An eligible private school shall administer annually or make provisions for a student participating in the scholarship program to take a nationally recognized norm-referenced test as established by the State Board of Education.

(2) A student with an individual education plan that provides for an exemption to standardized testing is not required to take the test required under subdivision (d)(1) of this section.

(3) An eligible private school shall annually prepare a portfolio that provides information on a student's progress to the student's



parent or guardian if a student is exempt from standardized testing as permitted under subdivision (d)(2) of this section."

AND

Page 3, line 23, delete "Request" and substitute "Apply for"

AND

Page 3, line 24, delete "scholarship payment" and substitute "scholarship payment and notify the superintendent of the student's resident school district within five (5) business days of submitting the application"

AND

Page 3, line 27, delete "and"

AND

Page 3, delete lines 28 through 30 and substitute the following:

"(4) Sign a waiver that releases the State of Arkansas from any legal obligation to provide services or education to the student participating in the program except for funding provided for the program under the rules established by the State Board of Education;

(5) Sign a waiver that releases the student's resident school district from any legal obligation to provide services or education to the student participating in the program while the student is not enrolled in the student's resident school district as provided under the rules established by the state board; and

(6) Notify the state board or the state board's designee if the student ceases to be enrolled in or regularly attend the private school for any reason."

AND

Page 3, delete line 36 and substitute the following:

"(c) The state board may terminate the scholarship of a student if the student or the student's parent or guardian materially fail to comply with the responsibilities under this section."

AND

Page 4, delete line 1

AND

Page 4, line 3, delete "payments" and substitute "payments – Funding"

AND

Page 4, delete line 10 and substitute the following:

"(c) Scholarship payments shall be disbursed in equal amounts on a

monthly basis by the Department of Education or another state agency, person, firm, or corporation designated by the department to administer and disburse funds.

(d) Beginning on July 1, 2015, the department shall prepare a budget, including cost estimates and projections so that a separate appropriation can be made for the program for the 2016-2017 school year.

(e) The program shall be funded separately from the Public School Fund and other funds or appropriations designated for public schools.

(f) The program shall not be funded with county, city, or school district tax revenues."

AND

Page 4, delete lines 12 through 14, and substitute the following:

"6-41-706. Rules and duties.

(a) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and develop notices and other documentation necessary to administer the Succeed Scholarship Program that are in the best interest of students.

(b) The state board shall not:

(1) Become a party to a contract between a participating school and a student's parent or guardian, however the state board shall make payments to a participating school as long as a student is enrolled and attending the participating school in good standing as required under § 6-41-704; or

(2) Make payments to a participating school after the state board is notified from either the participating school or a student's parent or guardian that the student is no longer enrolled or attending the participating school.

6-41-707. Autonomy of participating schools.

(a) A private school that participates in the Succeed Scholarship Program is not considered an agent or instrumentality of the State of Arkansas or a school district.

(b) The curriculum and education plan for a student with a disability attending a private school is not subject to the regulatory authority of the State Board of Education.

(c) As a condition of continued participation in the program, the state board may require a participating school that is receiving funds from the program to certify on a semiannual basis under oath that a student is and has been enrolled and attending the participating school except for excused absences."

The Amendment was read _____

By: House

By: Representative House

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Chief Clerk