

2 State of Arkansas  
3 89th General Assembly  
4 Regular Session, 2013

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2284

5  
6 By: Representative Hammer

7 Filed with: House Select Committee on Rules  
8 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

## 9 For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO AMEND THE DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOLARSHIP  
11 AWARDS UNDER THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE  
12 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, PART 2; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY;  
13 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## 16 Subtitle

17 TO AMEND THE DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOLARSHIP  
18 AWARDS UNDER THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC  
19 CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, PART 2;  
20 AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

24  
25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-85-204, concerning definitions for the  
26 Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, Part 2, is amended to add an  
27 additional subdivision to read as follows:

28 (23) "Two-year approved institution of higher education" means  
29 an approved:

30 (A) Technical college or community college under the  
31 Arkansas Technical and Community College System;

32 (B) Branch campus of a four-year approved institution of  
33 higher education; or

34 (C) Nursing school.  
35

1 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(1), concerning the scholarship  
2 award amount for a full-time recipient at a four-year institution of higher  
3 education, is amended to read as follows:

4 (e)(1)(A) Beginning with the ~~2011-2012~~ 2013-2014 academic year, the  
5 Department of Higher Education shall distribute scholarship award amount  
6 awards under this subchapter for an academic year for a full-time traditional  
7 or nontraditional recipient ~~enrolled in a four-year approved institution of~~  
8 ~~higher education is four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500) as provided~~  
9 under § 6-85-222.

10  
11 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(2)(A), concerning scholarship  
12 award amounts, is amended to read as follows:

13 (2)(A) The department shall award an aggregate amount of  
14 scholarship awards to nontraditional students ~~beginning with the 2010-2011~~  
15 ~~academic year~~ of twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000), plus any additional  
16 amount authorized by law.

17  
18 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(3) is repealed.

19 ~~(3) The scholarship award for a full-time student enrolled in~~  
20 ~~one (1) of the following institutions of higher education is one-half (½) of~~  
21 ~~the scholarship award amount for a full-time undergraduate student enrolled~~  
22 ~~in a four-year approved institution of higher education:~~

23 ~~(A) A two-year approved institution of higher education;~~

24 ~~(B) A branch campus of a four-year approved institution of~~  
25 ~~higher education; or~~

26 ~~(C) An approved nursing school.~~

27  
28 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 85, Subchapter 2, is amended  
29 to add an additional section to read as follows:

30 6-85-222. Scholarship award distribution.

31 (a) The Department of Higher Education shall award scholarships under  
32 this subchapter for an academic year but shall distribute the awards as  
33 provided under this section after the last day to drop a class at an approved  
34 institution of higher education in each fall and spring semester.

35 (b) For a recipient who has a minimum composite ACT score of twenty-  
36 one (21) or higher or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent and a high

1 school grade point average of 2.75 or higher if enrolled in the first  
2 semester as a first-time freshman or a postsecondary grade point average of  
3 2.75 or higher if enrolled in a subsequent semester, the annual scholarship  
4 award amount is:

5 (1) Two thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$2,250) for a  
6 recipient to attend a two-year approved institution of higher education,  
7 distributed as:

8 (A) One thousand dollars (\$1,000) in the first semester  
9 the recipient is enrolled; and

10 (B) One thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$1,250) in the  
11 second semester the recipient is enrolled; and

12 (2)(A) Three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) for a  
13 recipient to attend a four-year approved institution of higher education,  
14 distributed as one thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$1,750) each  
15 semester.

16 (B) A recipient under subdivision (b)(1) of this section  
17 who attends two (2) years at a two-year approved institution of higher  
18 education and maintains or exceeds a minimum postsecondary grade point  
19 average of 2.75 may transfer to a four-year approved institution of higher  
20 education and receive the scholarship award amount under subdivision  
21 (b)(2)(A) of this section.

22 (c) For a recipient who has a minimum composite ACT score of nineteen  
23 (19) or twenty (20) or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent and a high  
24 school grade point average of 2.50 or higher if enrolled in the first  
25 semester as a first-time freshman or a postsecondary grade point average of  
26 2.50 if enrolled in a subsequent semester, the annual scholarship award  
27 amount is:

28 (1) Two thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$2,250) for a  
29 recipient to attend a two-year approved institution of higher education in  
30 the recipient's first year of enrollment, distributed as:

31 (A) Eight hundred dollars (\$800) in the first semester of  
32 each year; and

33 (B) One thousand four hundred fifty dollars (\$1,450) in  
34 the second semester of each year;

35 (2) One thousand dollars (\$1,000) for a recipient to attend a  
36 four-year approved institution of higher education in the recipient's first

1 year of enrollment, distributed as five hundred dollars (\$500) in each  
2 semester;

3 (3) One thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) for a recipient  
4 to attend a four-year approved institution of higher education in the  
5 recipient's second year of enrollment, distributed as seven hundred fifty  
6 dollars (\$750) each semester;

7 (4) Three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) for a recipient  
8 to attend a four-year approved institution of higher education in the  
9 recipient's third year of enrollment, distributed as:

10 (A) One thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) in the  
11 first semester; and

12 (B) Two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in the second semester;  
13 and

14 (5) Four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500) for a recipient  
15 to attend a four-year approved institution of higher education in the  
16 recipient's fourth year of enrollment, distributed as:

17 (A) Two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in the first semester;  
18 and

19 (B) Two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) in the  
20 second semester.

21 (d) First and second semesters shall be consecutive except that the  
22 following semesters are not counted:

23 (1) A summer semester; or

24 (2) A semester for which the department has granted a waiver of  
25 continuing eligibility and the student is not enrolled.

26 (e)(1) The department shall not distribute funds in the second  
27 semester of an academic year if the recipient has not maintained continuing  
28 eligibility for the scholarship for the second semester.

29 (2) Scholarship award amounts that are not paid in the second  
30 semester of an academic year due to a recipient's failure to maintain  
31 continuing eligibility shall be added to the aggregate amount of scholarship  
32 awards for nontraditional students under § 6-85-212(e)(2).

33  
34 SECTION 6. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
35 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that increasing the number of  
36 Arkansans obtaining postsecondary credentials is critical to the economic

1 health of the state and its citizens; that the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery  
2 provides the opportunity for tens of thousands of Arkansans to obtain  
3 postsecondary education; that the deadline for scholarship applications is  
4 June 1, 2013; that the financial integrity of the Arkansas Scholarship  
5 Lottery is critical to the continued existence of the scholarships; and that  
6 this act is immediately necessary because the Department of Higher Education  
7 must promulgate rules to implement this act before June 1, 2013, in order to  
8 provide eligible Arkansans the opportunity to apply for the scholarship.  
9 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately  
10 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall  
11 become effective on:

- 12           (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;  
13           (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
14 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the  
15 bill; or  
16           (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
17 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

18  
19  
20 Referred by the Arkansas House of Representatives

21 Prepared by: CLR/VJF  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36