



STATE OF ARKANSAS
**Department of Finance
and Administration**

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April 14, 2014

Senator Bill Sample, Co-Chair
Representative John Charles Edwards, Co-Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council
State Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: Suspension of Rules Request

Dear Co-Chairs:

I am forwarding a request on behalf of the Governor to suspend the rules to allow for consideration of a Rainy Day Funds Transfer to the Department of Higher Education. The Department must fulfill accepted scholarship awards beginning May 1st in order to adequately meet admissions deadlines for the 2014-2015 school year. This issue requires immediate attention to meet these obligations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Weiss".

Richard A. Weiss
Director

RAW:brs:jmb

Attachment(s)



STATE OF ARKANSAS

MIKE BEEBE
GOVERNOR

April 14, 2014

Senator Bill Sample, Co-Chair
Representative John Charles Edwards, Co-Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council
315 State Capitol
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Co-Chairs:

I respectfully request approval of the Arkansas Legislative Council, as required by Section 3(a)(2) of Act 1519 of 2013, to transfer set-aside Rainy Day Funds from the 89th Session Projects Account of the General Improvement Fund to the following fund and fund account of the Revenue Stabilization Law up to the following amount:

Department of Higher Education

For a funds transfer to the Higher Education Grants Fund Account \$2,000,000

This transfer will allow the Department to award the Governor's Distinguished Scholarship for one year only to all incoming first-year students who are eligible for the Governor's Distinguished Scholarship. Current General Revenue funding only allows for 300 students per class, but over 500 incoming first-year students qualify to receive the award for the 2014-2015 school year; therefore, these funds will award scholarships to students ranked 301 and below. The 90th General Assembly will have to make funding decisions for these same students into their sophomore, junior, and senior years and for future classes of eligible Governor's Distinguished Scholars who do not rank within the top 300 students. This sum represents the maximum amount that would be transferred since the Department will not know until May 1 exactly how many eligible students ultimately decide to stay in-state to pursue higher education.

I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Beebe", is written over a horizontal line.

Mike Beebe

MB:brs:jmb