

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill

SENATE BILL

262

By: Senators Bookout, Howell, Benham, and

Beebe

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and cited as "The Arkansas National Guard Scholarship Program Act of 1989".

SECTION 2. Definitions. As used in this act, and unless the context requires a different meaning:

(a) Academic Excellence at the high school level, means a 950 combined SAT score or a 20 ACT score.

(b) Academic Year means two semesters or three quarters, Fall, Winter, and Spring.

(c) Applicant means a student who has applied to his Commanding Officer and forwarded his application thru command channels to The Adjutant General for the scholarship.

(d) Authority means The Adjutant General, State of Arkansas.

(e) Citizen of Arkansas means a person who is a citizen of the United States that established a permanent domicile in the State of Arkansas.

(f) College means any regionally accredited state-supported Arkansas college or university.

(g) Committee means the Selection Committee as described in this act.

(h) Eligible Student means a person who meets all of the eligibility requirements as provided for under the provisions of this act.

(i) Full-Time Support means a person who meets all of the eligibility requirements as provided for under the provisions of this act.

(j) Legal Resident of Arkansas means a citizen of the United States who is domiciled in the State of Arkansas pursuant to rules set forth in the

regulations governing residency for other state educational grant programs.

(k) Nominee means an applicant who has been nominated by his National Guard unit commander for the scholarship.

(l) Recipient means a nominee who has been selected by the committee to receive the scholarship.

(m) Required Academic Standards at the college level, means maintaining at least a 2.50 grade point average. If a recipient drops below a 2.50 grade point average for two consecutive quarters or semesters then he/she is not maintaining the required academic standards.

(n) Scholarship means the Arkansas military scholarship as provided for under the provisions of this act.

SECTION 3. General. There is established the Arkansas National Guard Scholarship Program to provide scholarships to eligible students for four (4) years of study at a state-supported Arkansas college or university or assistance for training at a state-supported vocational technical school who agree to serve with any service component unit of the Arkansas National Guard and upon graduation, agree to serve an additional six (6) years in the Arkansas National Guard.

SECTION 4. College Scholarships. (a) Student eligibility requirements:

(1) Students must be a legal resident of Arkansas for a minimum of twelve months immediately preceding the date of the beginning of the fall semester at the college/university. "Legal Resident" for purposes of obtaining the scholarship, means a citizen of the United States who is domiciled in the State of Arkansas pursuant to rules set forth in the regulations governing residency for other state educational grant programs.

(2) Student must qualify for regular admission to a regional accredited state-supported Arkansas college or university.

(3) Student must have demonstrated academic excellence at high school level.

(4) Student must meet mental and physical health standards required for membership in the Arkansas National Guard.

(5) Student must be an entering Freshman in order to receive a full four-year scholarship.

(b) Maintaining eligibility:

(1) Recipient must maintain required academic standards. This requirement may be waived upon majority vote of the committee.

(2) Recipient must maintain full-time enrollment status.

(3) Recipient must maintain membership in the Arkansas National Guard within one year of the selection year.

(4) Recipient must demonstrate qualities required of an Officer or Non-Commissioned officer in the National Guard. Certification of compliance shall be made at least once annually, no later than July by the National Guard Unit Commander.

(5) Recipient shall not receive any other financial aid funding authorized by the laws of Arkansas.

(c) Application procedures

(1) Student shall be informed of the scholarship through the combined efforts of the college, the Arkansas National Guard, and high school counselors.

(2) Student shall request an application from his National Guard Unit Commander.

(3) The Unit Commander mails an application, which is supplied by the Authority, to the student.

(4) The student completes an application, writes an essay stating why he thinks he is deserving of the scholarship and discusses his career goals, submits an official copy of his or her high school transcript or GED score sheet, as well as the official copy of the SAT scores or ACT scores, and sends them back to the Unit Commander, along with a full length photograph of himself.

(5) If the Unit Commander chooses to nominate the student, he must sign the application and send it to the Authority along with the student's completed application package.

(6) The deadline date for applications to be in to the Authority is January 1st.

(7) After the application is received by the Authority, a medical report form is sent to the student. The student must complete his or her section and obtain a physical examination. The physician completes the form and forwards it to the Authority.

(d) Selection process

(1) The Authority must receive the application information from the

Unit Commander, thru command channels, by January 1st.

(2) Applicants who do not meet the eligibility requirements of residency, academic excellence and qualification for regular admission to the college/university shall be eliminated by the Authority.

(3) The eligible nominees shall be evaluated by the Authority based on high school grade average, GED subjective equivalency, SAT score or ACT score, extra-curricular activities, leadership ability, the quality of the student's essay, the Unit Commander's comments and references.

(4) By February 1st, the Authority shall have no more than twenty-four (24) nominees selected.

(5) The Authority shall notify the eliminated nominees.

(6) The information on the qualified nominees shall be turned over to the committee by February 1st.

(7) The committee may select up to twelve (12) of the most qualified nominees to be recipients of the scholarship, plus up to twelve (12) alternates.

(8) The committee names the final recipients by March 1st.

(9) The six (6) recipients and alternates, as necessary, shall be given physicals by the Arkansas National Guard to verify mental and physical health requirements. Enlistment in the Arkansas National Guard must be completed by May 1st.

(10) The committee shall notify each recipient, each member's Unit Commander, and The Adjutant General of the Arkansas National Guard.

(11) The nominees not selected shall be notified by the committee.

(e) Vacant scholarship slots. In the event that a recipient fails to meet the standards for retention or terminates participation in the program, the committee shall award a three, two or one year scholarship as appropriate to fill the vacancy. The scholarship shall begin in September immediately following the award. The candidates shall be required to meet all criteria established for the four-year scholarship and they shall be selected from current list of applicants. They shall incur the same obligations as a four-year scholarship recipient; provided, however, that such recipients of scholarships of less than four years shall only be required to serve the number of years of such scholarship.

(f) Scholarship amounts. The scholarships shall not exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for each academic year.

(g) Disbursement

(1) The Authority shall be notified by the college/university of the dollar amount of each scholarship.

(2) A recipient must sign a Promissory Note annually, acknowledging the terms of the scholarship and obligating the student to serve or repay before a check will be disbursed.

(3) Eligible recipients are entitled to receive an annual scholarship award for each of the four academic years of study at the college/university, prorated for each quarter or term. For each of these terms, the recipient's maximum entitlement is 1/3 the annual award for the academic year. A recipient may only receive the scholarship for a maximum of 8 academic semesters, or the equivalent quarters.

(4) The Authority prepares individual recipient checks for each school term award amount, made payable to the recipient and mailed to the Financial Aid Office of the college with a "check transmittal letter" for disbursement to the recipient upon verification that the recipient is meeting the standards for maintaining eligibility.

(5) The Authority check transmittal letter lists each student recipient of the scholarship for the school term by name and social security number. During the registration process, the student picks up his/her award check, signing the check transmittal letter in the appropriate column and thereby certifying receipt of the check.

(6) The college must return the check transmittal letter to the Authority within 30 days following the school term registration process, accompanied by any undisbursed award checks.

(h) Loss of scholarship

(1) If at any time a recipient fails to meet the standards and requirements for continued eligibility, such recipient shall thereby lose eligibility for a scholarship. The committee shall promptly notify the Authority when a recipient loses eligibility.

(2) If a recipient loses the scholarship, the total dollar amount received by the recipient must be repaid to the Authority.

(i) Repayment of scholarship

(1) Upon graduation from the college or university, the recipient agrees to serve not less than six years in the Arkansas National Guard.

(2) If a student elects to terminate participation in this program

or is declared ineligible for continuation in the program, he or she must serve in the Arkansas National Guard, upon concurrence of the Arkansas National Guard for at least four years from the date of termination of his or her participation in the program.

(3) If the recipient does not meet the service obligation he/she must pay to the Authority an amount equal to the total dollar value received, plus interest, within five (5) years after terminating enrollment at the college or university. The interest rate shall correspond to the current rate of the state student loan program.

SECTION 5. Vocational Technical Scholarships. (a) Student eligibility requirements.

(1) Student must be a legal resident of Arkansas for a minimum of twelve months immediately preceding the date of admission to an Arkansas, state supported, vo-tech school. "Legal Resident" for purposes of obtaining the scholarship, means a citizen of the United States who is domiciled in the State of Arkansas pursuant to rules set forth in the regulations governing residency for other state educational grant programs.

(2) Student must qualify for admission to an accredited Arkansas state supported vo-tech school.

(3) Student must have demonstrated potential for successful completion of vo-tech training. This potential must be demonstrated by past academic records and military duty performance.

(4) Student must meet mental and physical health standards required for membership in the Arkansas National Guard.

(b) Maintaining eligibility.

(1) Recipient must maintain required academic standards.

(2) Recipient must maintain membership in the Arkansas National Guard.

(3) Recipient shall not receive any other financial aid funding authorized by the laws of Arkansas.

(c) Application procedure

(1) Student shall be informed of the scholarship through the combined efforts of the vo-tech school, the Arkansas National Guard, and high school counselors.

(2) Student shall request an application from their Guard Unit

Commanding Officer.

(3) The student completes an application and writes an essay stating why he thinks he is deserving of the scholarship and discusses his career goals and sends both back to the Guard unit, along with a full length photograph of himself.

(4) The student submits an official copy of his or high school transcript or GED score sheet.

(5) If the unit's Commanding Officer chooses to nominate the student, he must sign the application and send it to the Authority along with the student's essay.

(6) The deadline date for applications to be in to the Authority is January 1st.

(d) Selection process

(1) The Authority receives the application information from the Unit Commander by January 1st.

(2) Applicants who do not meet the eligibility requirements of residency, academic qualification for admission to the vo-tech school shall be eliminated by the Authority.

(3) The eligible nominees shall be evaluated by the Authority based on high school grade average, GED subjective equivalency, extra-curricular activities, leadership ability, the quality of the student's essay, the Unit Commander's comments and references.

(4) By February 1st, the Authority shall have no more than twenty-four (24) nominees selected.

(5) The Authority shall notify the eliminated nominees.

(6) The Authority may select up to twelve (12) of the most qualified nominees to be recipients of the scholarship, plus up to twelve (12) alternates.

(7) The Authority names the final recipients by March 1st.

(8) The Authority shall notify each recipient.

(e) Scholarship amount. The scholarship shall not exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per academic year.

(f) Disbursement.

(1) The Authority shall be notified by the vo-tech school of the dollar amount cost for tuition and books for the duration of the course.

(2) The Authority prepares individual recipient checks for each

school term award amount, made payable to the recipient and mailed to the Financial Aid Office of the vo-tech school with a "check transmittal letter" for disbursement to the recipient upon verification that the recipient is meeting the standards for maintaining eligibility.

(3) The Authority check transmittal letter lists each student recipient of the scholarship for the school term by name and social security number. During the registration process, the student picks up his/her award check, signing the check transmittal letter in the appropriate column and thereby certifying receipt of the check.

(4) The vo-tech must return the check transmittal letter to the Authority within 30 days following the school term registration process, accompanied by any undisbursed award checks.

(g) Loss of scholarship.

(1) If at any time a recipient fails to meet the standards and requirements for continued eligibility as provided by the Authority, such recipient shall thereby lose eligibility for a scholarship.

(2) If a recipient loses the scholarship, the total dollar amount received by the recipient must be repaid.

SECTION 6. The Adjutant General of the State of Arkansas shall have the authority to issue necessary rules and regulations to implement and carry out the provisions of this act.

SECTION 7. All provisions of this Act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 8. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.