

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **78th General Assembly**
3 **First Extraordinary Session, 1992**
4 **By: Representative Lipton**

Call Item 10

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1002

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO AMEND THE FAMILY INCOME REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
9 ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO BROADEN
10 MIDDLE CLASS ELIGIBILITY FOR THIS PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER
11 PURPOSES."

12
13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

14
15 SECTION 1. Legislative Findings and Declaration of Public Necessity.
16 The General Assembly hereby recognizes the importance of providing scholarship
17 assistance to the children of middle class Arkansas families, particularly for
18 those who meet the academic requirements of the Arkansas Academic Challenge
19 Scholarship Program, a guaranteed college scholarship plan to promote academic
20 achievement and encourage academically prepared Arkansas high school graduates
21 to enroll in the state_s colleges and universities which was created by the
22 1991 General Assembly.

23
24 SECTION 2. Eligibility for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship
25 Program shall be based on the criteria set forth in Arkansas Code Annotated 6-
26 82-1001 through 6-82-1006, except that section (b)(3) of 6-82-1005 shall be
27 amended to read as follows:

28 "(3) The student must demonstrate financial need as defined by the
29 Department of Higher Education. In calculating student financial need for
30 applicants who graduate from an Arkansas high school after May 1, 1991, the
31 following criteria shall be used:

32 (A) An applicant whose family includes one (1) unemancipated
33 child under the age of twenty-one (21) shall have average family adjusted
34 gross income over the previous two (2) years not exceeding thirty-five
35 thousand dollars (\$35,000) per year at the time of application to the program.

1 If the applicant is an adopted child who was at least twelve (12) years of
2 age at the time of adoption, and the applicant's family includes one (1)
3 unemancipated adopted child under twenty-one (21) years of age, the adoptive
4 family's average adjusted gross income for the previous two (2) years shall
5 not exceed forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) per year.

6 (B) An applicant whose family includes two (2) unemancipated
7 children under the age of twenty-one (21) shall have average family adjusted
8 gross income over the previous two (2) years not exceeding forty thousand
9 dollars (\$40,000) per year at the time of application to the program. If the
10 applicant is an adopted child who was at least twelve (12) years of age at the
11 time of adoption, and the applicant's family includes two (2) unemancipated
12 adopted children under twenty-one (21) years of age, the adoptive family's
13 average adjusted gross income for the previous two (2) years shall not exceed
14 fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) per year.

15 (C) An applicant whose family includes three (3) or more
16 unemancipated children under the age of twenty-one (21) shall have average
17 family adjusted gross income over the previous two (2) years not exceeding
18 forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) per year at the time of application to
19 the program, plus, for families with more than three (3) unemancipated
20 children under the age of twenty-one (21), an additional five thousand dollars
21 (\$5,000) per year for each additional child. If the applicant is an adopted
22 child who was at least twelve (12) years of age at the time of adoption, and
23 the applicant's family includes three (3) unemancipated adopted children under
24 twenty-one (21) years of age, the adoptive family's average adjusted gross
25 income for the previous two (2) years shall not exceed sixty thousand dollars
26 (\$60,000) per year, plus, for families with more than three (3) unemancipated
27 adopted children under the age of twenty-one (21), an additional ten thousand
28 dollars (\$10,000) per year for each additional child."

29

30 SECTION 3. Section (b)(1) of 6-82-1005 shall be amended to read as
31 follows:

32 "(b)(1) A student shall be eligible for an award from this program if
33 he or she meets all of these criteria:

34 (A) The recipient shall have graduated from an Arkansas high
35 school on or after March 5, 1991, and within twenty-four (24) months of

1 enrolling as a full-time first-time freshman at an approved institution of
2 higher education;

3 (B) The recipient shall have been a resident of the State of
4 Arkansas for at least twelve (12) months prior to graduation from an Arkansas
5 high school, and the recipient's parent or parents or guardian or guardians
6 shall have maintained Arkansas residency for the same period of time;

7 (C) The recipient must be a citizen of the United States or be a
8 permanent resident alien;

9 (D) The recipient must be accepted for admission at an approved
10 institution of higher education as a full-time first-time freshman, as defined
11 by the Department of Higher Education, and must enroll in an approved
12 institution within twenty-four (24) months of high school graduation; and

13 (E) The recipient must have successfully completed the
14 precollegiate core curriculum established by the State Boards of Education and
15 Higher Education pursuant to §§6-61-111, 6-61-217, and 6-61-218."

16

17 SECTION 4. *Arkansas Code 6-82-1004(e) is hereby amended to read as*
18 *follows:*

19 "*(e) The Departments of Education and Higher Education are directed to*
20 *develop appropriate informational materials on the Arkansas Academic Challenge*
21 *Scholarship Program and insure their distribution to Arkansas students in*
22 *grades Kindergarten through twelve (12) each year as part of the packet of*
23 *materials on precollegiate preparation distributed by the Department of*
24 *Education as mandated by §§ 6-61-111, 6-61-217, and 6-61-218. This shall be*
25 *accomplished through the use of school counselors."*

26

27 SECTION 5. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
28 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
29 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

30

31 SECTION 6. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
32 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
33 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
34 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
35 act are declared to be severable.

