

Stricken language would be deleted from present law. Underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas
2 81st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1997

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1981

4
5 By: Representative Thicksten

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 "AN ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS SECTIONS OF ARKANSAS CODE
10 ANNOTATED § 6-82-1201 ET SEQ. PERTAINING TO THE ARKANSAS
11 POLICE CORPS PROGRAM TO CONFORM STATE LAW WITH FEDERAL
12 LEGISLATION; TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED §§ 12-9-205
13 AND 12-9-107 TO AUTHORIZE LAW ENFORCEMENT CERTIFICATION
14 TRAINING TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE POLICE CORPS PILOT
15 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WHO ARE UNDER THE AGE OF TWENTY-ONE
16 (21); TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

18 "TO AMEND VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE
19 ARKANSAS CODE PERTAINING TO THE ARKANSAS
20 POLICE CORPS PROGRAM TO CONFORM WITH
21 FEDERAL LAW."
22

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

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26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-82-1201 is amended to read as
27 follows:

28 "6-82-1201. Purpose.

29 It is the purpose of this subchapter:

30 (1) To provide educational opportunities at Arkansas public
31 institutions of higher education for certified law enforcement officers and
32 students who possess a sincere interest in public service in the form of law
33 enforcement to obtain baccalaureate degrees in courses of study that will
34 benefit and complement work in the field of law enforcement;

35 (2) To establish the Arkansas Police Corps Program, including the
36 creation of a commission authorized to promulgate the necessary rules and

1 regulations to implement a police corps program in Arkansas;

2 (3) To create the Arkansas Police Corps Scholarship Program; and

3 (4) To undertake the necessary planning and other actions required to
4 enable Arkansas to participate in the federal police corps program."

5

6 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-82-1202 is amended to read as
7 follows:

8 "6-82-1202. Arkansas Police Corps Planning Commission - Arkansas Police
9 Corps Program.

10 (a) There is hereby established the Arkansas Police Corps Planning
11 Commission.

12 (b) The commission shall be appointed by the Governor, and shall have
13 eleven (11) members:

14 (1) The Director of the Department of Higher Education;

15 (2) The Director of the Department of Arkansas State Police;

16 (3) The Director of the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training
17 Academy;

18 (4) A representative of the Arkansas Municipal Police
19 Association;

20 (5) A representative of the Arkansas Sheriffs Association;

21 (6) A representative of the Arkansas Police Chiefs Association;

22 (7) Two (2) faculty members or administrators from institutions
23 of higher education with accredited criminal justice programs;

24 (8) Two (2) higher education financial aid administrators; and

25 (9) One (1) active certified law enforcement officer.

26 (c) The Director of the Criminal Justice Institute shall serve as
27 ex-officio member and chairman of the commission.

28 ~~——(e)(d)~~ The commission shall develop a state plan for implementation of
29 the Arkansas Police Corps Program. The plan shall include rules and
30 regulations for operation of the Arkansas Police Corps Program and the
31 Arkansas Police Corps Scholarship Program.

32 ~~——(d)(e)~~ The police corps training plan adopted by the commission shall:

33 (1) Provide for the screening and selection of police corps
34 participants;

35 (2) State procedures for assignment of participants in the
36 Arkansas Police Corps to state police, municipal police, and sheriffs'

1 offices; and

2 (3) Provide for such other rules and regulations as may be
 3 necessary to provide for the training of program participants, including law
 4 enforcement certification training during the summer for participants under
 5 the age of twenty-one (21); operation of the program; and administration of
 6 the scholarship program.

7 ~~_____ (e)~~(f) A minimum of twelve (12) credit hours per year must be
 8 satisfactorily completed each academic year.

9 ~~_____ (f)~~(g) Should the federal government create a national police corps
 10 program, the Arkansas Police Corps Planning Commission shall be the entity
 11 designated to administer the state's participation in the federal program."
 12

13 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-82-1203 is amended to read as
 14 follows:

15 "6-82-1203. Number, amount, eligibility, and award of scholarships.

16 (a) Scholarship recipients shall be selected by the Arkansas Police
 17 Corps Planning Commission.

18 (b)(1) The number of scholarships awarded annually under the Arkansas
 19 State Police Corps Program cannot exceed the expected number of officers
 20 needed by Arkansas police forces or other law enforcement agencies.

21 (2)(A) In no case, however, shall the number of new scholarships
 22 awarded each year through this program be more than fifty (50).

23 (B) Additionally, the total number of scholarships shall
 24 not exceed two hundred fifty (250) at any one time.

25 (C) Any scholarships awarded under this program shall be
 26 contingent on the availability of sufficient funds from a revenue source
 27 dedicated to this purpose.

28 (c)(1) Scholarship recipients shall receive a police corps scholarship
 29 equal to ~~the lesser of one thousand five hundred fifty dollars (\$1,550) or~~
 30 actual book and tuition costs for six (6) or more hours each semester.

31 (2) Scholarship awards shall be renewable ~~for up to three (3)~~
 32 ~~additional years of study~~, provided that recipients meet continuing
 33 eligibility criteria established through program rules and regulations.

34 (d) ~~For academic years 1992-1993 through 1996-1997, eligible recipients~~
 35 ~~shall include only current law enforcement officers. Beginning with new~~
 36 ~~scholarships awarded for the 1997-1998 academic year, eligibility Eligible~~

1 recipients for scholarships ~~can~~ shall include applicants who intend to enter
 2 the field of law enforcement but are not employed, and have not worked
 3 previously, as law enforcement officers, in addition to current law
 4 enforcement officers. ~~Further, consideration may be given by the commission to~~
 5 ~~awarding scholarships to current law enforcement officers.~~

6 (e)(1) Each non-law enforcement recipient shall be required to
 7 successfully complete the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy curriculum
 8 for basic certification, during, or after completing, a course of study which
 9 results in receipt of a bachelor's degree.

10 (2) A scholarship recipient who fails to secure a full-time paid
 11 position as a police officer or law enforcement officer within one (1) year of
 12 graduating from college and from the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy
 13 shall repay, with interest, the amount of any scholarship funds received under
 14 this subchapter.

15 (3) Recipients of scholarship awards shall also be required to
 16 complete one (1) full year of service as a state, municipal, or sheriff's
 17 department law enforcement officer for every ~~twenty-four (24)~~ thirty (30)
 18 hours attempted in which scholarship aid was received under the program.
 19 Failure to meet this service obligation shall mean that the scholarship
 20 recipient must repay, with interest, the amount of any scholarship funds
 21 received under this subchapter."
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23 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Annotated § 12-9-107(b), pertaining to
 24 training programs established by the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement
 25 Standards and Training, is amended to read as follows:

26 "(b) The commission shall establish and maintain police training
 27 programs through such agencies and institutions as the commission may deem
 28 appropriate to carry out the intent of this subchapter, including provision
 29 for training participants in the Arkansas Police Corps Scholarship Program
 30 under the age of twenty-one (21)."
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32 SECTION 5. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
 33 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
 34 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.
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36 SECTION 6. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to

1 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
 2 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
 3 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
 4 act are declared to be severable.

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6 SECTION 7. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
 7 hereby repealed.

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9 SECTION 8. EMERGENCY. It is found and determined by the General
 10 Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Arkansas Police Corps Program and
 11 Police Corps Scholarship Program, which are operated in large part under
 12 federal grants, do not conform with federal requirements and that failure to
 13 take immediate appropriate action could work irreparable harm upon the proper
 14 administration and provision of these programs. Therefore an emergency is
 15 declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the
 16 preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall become effective on
 17 the date of its approval by the Governor. If the bill is neither approved nor
 18 vetoed by the Governor, it shall become effective on the expiration of the
 19 period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill. If the bill is
 20 vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, it shall become effective
 21 on the date the last house overrides the veto.

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