

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 83rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2001
4

As Engrossed: S3/8/01 S4/5/01

A Bill

SENATE BILL 777

5 By: Senator Mahony
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO REPEAL VARIOUS UNFUNDED SCHOLARSHIP
9 PROGRAMS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
10

Subtitle

11 AN ACT TO REPEAL VARIOUS UNFUNDED
12 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS.
13
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
18

19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 7 is
20 repealed.

21 ~~6-15-701. Grants—Generally.~~

22 ~~The Department of Education shall award, from the Opportunity~~
23 ~~Scholarship Fund, grants for the purpose of providing support services to~~
24 ~~students enrolled in public schools who are identified as having a high risk~~
25 ~~of dropping out of school or otherwise failing to attain a postsecondary~~
26 ~~education. Such awards shall be made on a competitive basis to local school~~
27 ~~districts or not-for-profit community-based organizations.~~
28

29 ~~6-15-702. Grants—Applications—Amount.~~

30 ~~(a) All Opportunity Partnership grant applications shall contain the~~
31 ~~following:~~

32 ~~(1) A program for identifying students who are at risk of~~
33 ~~dropping out as measured by academic performance, attendance, discipline~~
34 ~~problems, and other factors affecting school performance, including, but not~~
35 ~~limited to, teenage pregnancy or parenting, alcohol or substance abuse,~~
36 ~~residence in an unstable or temporary living arrangement, or child abuse or~~

1 neglect;

2 ~~(2) A program for encouraging the use of volunteers from the~~
3 ~~community to serve as mentors, tutors, and counselors for individual students~~
4 ~~who are at risk;~~

5 ~~(3) A program that demonstrates a significant degree of~~
6 ~~cooperation among various local leadership groups and service providers and~~
7 ~~the prospect of integrating an intensive monitoring of at risk students with~~
8 ~~existing programs and services;~~

9 ~~(4) A program that entails a substantial strategy for~~
10 ~~subdivision (a)(1) of this section, as well as others not referred to in this~~
11 ~~section and § 6-82-701 et seq., by the use of the Opportunity Partnership~~
12 ~~grant to establish activities including, but not limited to, after school~~
13 ~~tutoring, substance abuse counseling, and field trips to institutions of~~
14 ~~higher education which are designed to heighten the student's interest in~~
15 ~~postsecondary study.~~

16 ~~(b) The department shall establish the maximum amount which any single~~
17 ~~recipient will receive in any single year.~~

18

19 ~~6-15-703. Construction.~~

20 ~~Nothing in this subchapter is intended to imply that an Opportunity~~
21 ~~Scholarship be a replacement or substitute for any other state educational~~
22 ~~grant or loan which the student is otherwise eligible to receive.~~
23 ~~Opportunity scholarships are to supplement other state educational~~
24 ~~assistance.~~

25

26 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 17, Subchapter 20 is
27 repealed.

28 ~~6-17-2001. Title.~~

29 ~~This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas~~
30 ~~Teachers' Postgraduate Scholarship Program Act of 1993".~~

31

32 ~~6-17-2002. Legislative findings and purpose.~~

33 ~~The General Assembly hereby finds and determines that school districts~~
34 ~~in certain economically disadvantaged counties in this state are in dire need~~
35 ~~of certified teachers. Therefore, it is the purpose of this subchapter to~~
36 ~~provide an incentive whereby qualified graduates of teacher education~~

1 programs in institutions of higher education located in Arkansas agree to
2 teach in these economically disadvantaged counties for at least three (3)
3 years.

4
5 ~~6-17-2003. Eligibility.~~

6 ~~(a) Beginning with the 1993 graduating class, a person who graduates~~
7 ~~in the top ten percent (10%) of a teacher education undergraduate program at~~
8 ~~an institution of higher education located in Arkansas shall be eligible to~~
9 ~~apply to the Department of Education for financial assistance in pursuing an~~
10 ~~advanced education degree, provided such graduate agrees to teach~~
11 ~~successfully for at least three (3) school years in a school district located~~
12 ~~in a county meeting the following qualifications:~~

13 ~~(1) An unemployment rate above nine percent (9%), according to~~
14 ~~the Arkansas Employment Security Department;~~

15 ~~(2) An average household income below seventeen thousand dollars~~
16 ~~(\$17,000); and~~

17 ~~(3) Twenty five percent (25%) or more of the population living~~
18 ~~below the poverty level as defined by the federal government.~~

19 ~~(b) After each of the three (3) years spent successfully teaching in a~~
20 ~~school district located in a county described in subsection (a) of this~~
21 ~~section, the graduate shall receive a one thousand dollar (\$1,000) stipend~~
22 ~~from the Department of Education to attend education seminars or to enroll in~~
23 ~~summer school in pursuit of an advanced education degree.~~

24 ~~(c) After completing three (3) years of successful teaching in a~~
25 ~~school district located in a county described in subsection (a) of this~~
26 ~~section, the graduate shall receive fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) in~~
27 ~~financial assistance from the department for pursuit of an advanced education~~
28 ~~degree at an Arkansas public institution of higher education.~~

29 ~~(d) Participation in the Arkansas Teachers' Postgraduate Scholarship~~
30 ~~Program shall be limited to thirty (30) 1993 graduates during the 1993-1994~~
31 ~~school year and thirty (30) additional graduates each succeeding year.~~

32
33 ~~6-17-2004. Administration.~~

34 ~~The Department of Education is hereby charged with the administration~~
35 ~~and implementation of the Arkansas Teachers' Postgraduate Scholarship~~
36 ~~Program.~~

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SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 17, Subchapter 18 is repealed.

~~6-17-1801. Creation.~~

~~There is established a program to be known as "The Minority Teacher Recruitment and Training Program".~~

~~6-17-1802. Purpose.~~

~~The purpose of this subchapter is to provide a unified effort between school districts, institutions of higher education, the Department of Education, and the Department of Higher Education to substantially increase the number of minorities who choose to prepare for a teaching career in the public schools of the State of Arkansas.~~

~~6-17-1803. Guidelines for program.~~

~~The Department of Higher Education, the Department of Education, and the deans of the colleges of education at public and private institutions of higher education shall work cooperatively to develop guidelines for the establishment of a minority teacher recruitment and training program which shall include the following:~~

~~(1) The programs shall be limited to areas of the state in which community colleges or four-year institutions of higher education that are within easy access of members of the minority population and a local school district are willing to participate in the program;~~

~~(2) The program shall include the provision for articulation agreements between the participating institution of higher education and the local school district to permit field experiences and student teaching assignments during the final two (2) years of the program as well as limited classroom experience during the first two (2) years;~~

~~(3) Funding shall be provided to the local school district by the state in an amount not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per participant per year as an honorarium to participating mentor teachers;~~

~~(4) Each mentor teacher shall agree to participate in the program for four (4) years;~~

~~(5) The program shall include opportunities for paid internships~~

1 during the junior and senior years;

2 ~~(6) The program shall provide for specialized recruitment,~~
3 ~~selection, admission, and retention procedures; and~~

4 ~~(7) The program shall provide for increasing the number of young~~
5 ~~people in high school interested in teacher training.~~

6
7 ~~6-17-1804. Development of program plan — Approval.~~

8 ~~(a) Any community college or institution of higher education with a~~
9 ~~college of education which desires to participate in the minority teacher~~
10 ~~recruitment and training program shall solicit the cooperation of one (1) or~~
11 ~~more school districts for development of a program plan in compliance with~~
12 ~~the guidelines established by the departments.~~

13 ~~(b) All recruitment and training plans must demonstrate an ability to~~
14 ~~fulfill the purpose of this subchapter and shall be subject to the approval~~
15 ~~of the State Board of Education and the Arkansas Higher Education~~
16 ~~Coordinating Board.~~

17
18 ~~6-17-1805. Promotion of program.~~

19 ~~Both the Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education~~
20 ~~shall actively promote the minority teacher recruitment and training program~~
21 ~~to solicit applications for approval and participation by community colleges,~~
22 ~~institutions of higher education, and local school districts.~~

23
24 ~~6-17-1806. Minority population defined.~~

25 ~~For purposes of this subchapter, members of the male gender shall be~~
26 ~~considered a minority population.~~

27
28 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 81, Subchapter 3 is
29 repealed.

30 ~~6-81-301. Program established — Administration.~~

31 ~~There is established a Nursing Student Loan Program to be administered~~
32 ~~by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing in accordance with the provisions of~~
33 ~~this subchapter.~~

34
35 ~~6-81-302. Rules and regulations.~~

36 ~~The Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall adopt such reasonable rules~~

1 and regulations not inconsistent with this subchapter as it deems necessary
2 to effectively and efficiently carry out the purposes of this subchapter.

3
4 ~~6-81-303. Arkansas State Board of Nursing—Powers and duties.~~

5 ~~(a) The Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall:~~

6 ~~(1) Prescribe forms to be used in the loan program;~~

7 ~~(2) Regulate the submission of applications for loans;~~

8 ~~(3) Determine eligibility of applicants;~~

9 ~~(4) Allow or disallow applications for financial assistance;~~

10 ~~(5) Contract for, increase, decrease, terminate, and otherwise~~
11 ~~regulate all loans made under this subchapter and the repayment of these~~
12 ~~loans;~~

13 ~~(6) Forgive loans and portions of loans as provided for; and~~

14 ~~(7) Manage, operate, and control all funds and property~~
15 ~~appropriated or otherwise contributed for purposes of funding this program.~~

16 ~~(b) The board is authorized to accept gifts, grants, bequests,~~
17 ~~devises, donations, and any federal funds available for this purpose and to~~
18 ~~deposit any funds so received in the Nursing Student Loan Revolving Fund~~
19 ~~provided for in this subchapter, to be used together with funds appropriated~~
20 ~~for the program for making loans under the provisions of this subchapter.~~

21
22 ~~6-81-304. Eligibility and requirements for loans.~~

23 ~~(a) Any person who is enrolled in, or has been accepted for admission~~
24 ~~to, an approved school of nursing in this state or in a National League of~~
25 ~~Nursing accredited school outside the state, in a course of study leading to~~
26 ~~qualification as a teacher in a school offering a course of study leading to~~
27 ~~qualification as a registered nurse, a licensed practical nurse, or a~~
28 ~~licensed psychiatric technician shall be eligible to make application to the~~
29 ~~Arkansas State Board of Nursing for a loan under the provisions of this~~
30 ~~subchapter.~~

31 ~~(b) The board may make a loan to an applicant under the provisions of~~
32 ~~this subchapter when it determines that an applicant:~~

33 ~~(1) Is enrolled in, or has been accepted for admission to, an~~
34 ~~approved school of nursing in this state or in a National League of Nursing~~
35 ~~accredited school outside the state, in studies leading to qualification as~~
36 ~~an educator in a school offering courses of study leading to qualification of~~

1 ~~students as registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, or licensed~~
2 ~~psychiatric technicians;~~

3 ~~(2) Is in need of financial assistance to complete his or her~~
4 ~~nursing teacher studies; and~~

5 ~~(3) Expresses an intention to engage in practice as an educator~~
6 ~~in a state approved school offering a course of study leading to the~~
7 ~~qualification of students as registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, or~~
8 ~~licensed psychiatric technicians in the State of Arkansas upon graduation and~~
9 ~~licensure.~~

10 ~~(c) In awarding loans, the board shall give preference to applicants~~
11 ~~who are residents of Arkansas.~~

12
13 ~~6-81-305. Written contract required.~~

14 ~~Each recipient of a loan under the provisions of this subchapter shall~~
15 ~~execute a written contract with the board for the repayment of the loan under~~
16 ~~such terms as are provided in this subchapter and as the board shall~~
17 ~~prescribe.~~

18
19 ~~6-81-306. Amount of loans — Maximum.~~

20 ~~(a) The board may make a loan to any applicant in an amount calculated~~
21 ~~to pay the applicant's tuition, maintenance, and other education expenses~~
22 ~~while he is enrolled in a program of nursing education as described in this~~
23 ~~subchapter.~~

24 ~~(b) The total of the loans made to any one (1) student under this~~
25 ~~subchapter shall not exceed four thousand dollars (\$4,000).~~

26
27 ~~6-81-307. Term of loans.~~

28 ~~Each loan made to an applicant under this subchapter shall be for one~~
29 ~~(1) academic year.~~

30
31 ~~6-81-308. Renewal.~~

32 ~~(a) Each loan made to an applicant under this subchapter, subject to~~
33 ~~the availability of funds, shall be renewable annually for the number of~~
34 ~~years required to complete studies leading to qualification as an educator in~~
35 ~~a school offering a course of study leading to qualification as a registered~~
36 ~~nurse, licensed practical nurse, or licensed psychiatric technician.~~

1 ~~(b) Any loan made to an applicant subsequent to an initial loan shall~~
2 ~~be made only upon application of the recipient and upon finding by the board~~
3 ~~that:~~

4 ~~(1) The applicant has successfully completed the nursing studies~~
5 ~~of the preceding academic year and remains in good standing as an enrolled~~
6 ~~student in the appropriate school of nursing; and~~

7 ~~(2) The financial situation of the applicant warrants the making~~
8 ~~of a loan under the provisions of this subchapter.~~

9
10 ~~6-81-309. Cancellation of principal and interest.~~

11 ~~Each contract shall include a provision that if the recipient, upon~~
12 ~~completion of his nursing education and qualification as a teacher of~~
13 ~~registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, or licensed psychiatric~~
14 ~~technicians, engages in teaching in this state in a school offering a course~~
15 ~~of study leading to the qualification of students as registered nurses,~~
16 ~~licensed practical nurses, or licensed psychiatric technicians, the board~~
17 ~~shall, for each year that the recipient so teaches in this state, cancel~~
18 ~~twenty percent (20%) of the principal amount of all loans made to the student~~
19 ~~under the provisions of this subchapter, and the interest thereon. However,~~
20 ~~no portion of the loan shall be cancelled unless the recipient teaches in~~
21 ~~such a school in this state for at least two (2) successive years.~~

22
23 ~~6-81-310. Repayment—Interest.~~

24 ~~Any recipient of a loan under this subchapter who, upon completion of~~
25 ~~his education, does not engage in the practice of teaching his profession in~~
26 ~~this state or does not continue such practice in accordance with the~~
27 ~~provisions of this subchapter shall be obligated to repay the loans received~~
28 ~~under the provisions of this subchapter in accordance with the provisions of~~
29 ~~the contracts, together with interest at the rate of ten percent (10%) per~~
30 ~~annum. The interest shall accrue from the date each loan was received by the~~
31 ~~recipient.~~

32
33 ~~6-81-311. Borrower's loss of good standing—Acceleration of due date.~~

34 ~~If the recipient of the loan under this subchapter ceases to be~~
35 ~~enrolled in good standing in a recognized school of nursing prior to~~
36 ~~completion of the education requirements to qualify as a teacher in a school~~

1 offering a course of study leading to qualification as a registered nurse,
2 licensed practical nurse, or licensed psychiatric technician, all loans made
3 under this subchapter to such person, and the interest thereon, shall become
4 due and payable immediately, or as may be otherwise provided in the contract
5 for the loans.

6
7 ~~6-81-312. Nursing Student Loan Revolving Fund.~~

8 The Nursing Student Loan Revolving Fund is created, and all funds
9 appropriated by the General Assembly or otherwise made available to the board
10 for this program shall be deposited in the fund. All loans made under the
11 provisions of this subchapter shall be made from the fund, and all loan
12 payments under this subchapter shall be deposited in the fund.

13
14 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 81, Subchapter 10 is
15 repealed.

16 ~~6-81-1001. Creation.~~

17 There is hereby established a program to be known as "The Nurse
18 Midwifery Program" to be administered by the University of Arkansas for
19 Medical Sciences.

20
21 ~~6-81-1002. Purpose.~~

22 The purpose of this subchapter is to improve access to qualified
23 obstetrical care in this state by providing a means for qualified students to
24 attend accredited schools of nurse midwifery under grants provided by the
25 state which may be repaid through two (2) years of service in medically
26 underserved communities in this state.

27
28 ~~6-81-1003. Administration.~~

29 (a) The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences shall administer
30 the nurse midwifery program and shall have authority to adopt rules and
31 regulations consistent with the provisions of this subchapter.

32 (b) The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences is authorized and
33 designated as the agent for the State of Arkansas for the purpose of entering
34 into and administering a program of out-of-state training and education for
35 residents of Arkansas through cooperation of the Board of Control for
36 Southern Regional Education which was created by interstate compact with

1 ~~Arkansas, a signatory pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 13, approved~~
2 ~~March 2, 1949, or by contract with the board.~~

3
4 ~~6-81-1004. Conditions.~~

5 ~~The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences may make initial awards~~
6 ~~to students who meet the following conditions:~~

7 ~~(1) The applicant is a registered nurse currently licensed in~~
8 ~~Arkansas;~~

9 ~~(2) The applicant has met the admission requirements of an~~
10 ~~educational program accredited by the American College of Nurse-Midwives' in~~
11 ~~a Southern Regional Education Compact state; and~~

12 ~~(3) The educational program to which the applicant has been~~
13 ~~admitted will make the applicant eligible to take the American College of~~
14 ~~Nurse-Midwives certification exam.~~

15
16 ~~6-81-1005. Number and amount.~~

17 ~~(a) The number of initial loan awards in each year shall not exceed~~
18 ~~five (5).~~

19 ~~(b) The total amount for each student's loan shall not exceed ten~~
20 ~~thousand dollars (\$10,000) per academic year.~~

21
22 ~~6-81-1006. Repayment.~~

23 ~~(a) Loan recipients who work in a medically underserved community in~~
24 ~~this state, as determined by the Department of Health and upon certification~~
25 ~~by the American College of Nurse-Midwives and state licensure as a Certified~~
26 ~~Nurse-Midwife for a minimum of two (2) years, upon completing their program~~
27 ~~of study, shall have forgiven one-half (1/2) of the total loan, and related~~
28 ~~interest, for each year employed in such capacity.~~

29 ~~(b) Loan recipients not meeting the requirements of subsection (a) of~~
30 ~~this section, upon completing their program of study, shall repay the full~~
31 ~~remaining balance plus accrued interest according to an interest and~~
32 ~~repayment schedule developed by the University of Arkansas for Medical~~
33 ~~Sciences.~~

34
35 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code 6-82-101 is repealed.

36 ~~6-82-101. Scholarship for student of Quapaw descent.~~

1 ~~(a) There is established at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville~~
2 ~~an American Heritage Scholarship to be made available to a deserving student~~
3 ~~of Quapaw descent.~~

4 ~~(b) The scholarship shall be in the amount of one thousand five~~
5 ~~hundred dollars (\$1,500).~~

6
7 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 82, Subchapter 7 is
8 repealed.

9 ~~6-82-701. Creation.~~

10 ~~There is hereby established a program to be known as the "Arkansas~~
11 ~~Literacy Corps" to be administered by the Department of Higher Education.~~

12
13 ~~6-82-702. Purpose.~~

14 ~~One of the greatest problems facing Arkansans and the State of Arkansas~~
15 ~~is the large number of adults unable to read well enough to participate fully~~
16 ~~in a society and economy that demands literacy for individuals to function~~
17 ~~effectively in employment, participate as citizens, and continue to develop~~
18 ~~their personal knowledge and abilities. The purpose of this legislation is to~~
19 ~~address this problem directly by creating the Arkansas Literacy Corps which~~
20 ~~will train and employ college students to teach adults to read, assign those~~
21 ~~students to work with local adult education programs and local literacy~~
22 ~~groups, and pay students for hours spent working in the program.~~

23
24 ~~6-82-703. Program generally.~~

25 ~~(a)(1) Sponsoring institutions, which shall be selected by the~~
26 ~~Department of Higher Education shall either directly or through cooperation~~
27 ~~with local literacy groups or adult education programs, select and train~~
28 ~~students to serve as tutors to adults who are working to attain or improve~~
29 ~~their literacy.~~

30 ~~(2) If a sponsoring institution of higher education has more~~
31 ~~students participating in the Arkansas Literacy Corps than are needed to~~
32 ~~serve as tutors with adult literacy or adult education groups or agencies~~
33 ~~within a reasonable distance of the campus, the sponsoring institution may~~
34 ~~contract with one (1) or more local school districts for Arkansas Literacy~~
35 ~~Corps participants to serve as tutors or classroom aides in public school~~
36 ~~programs of compensatory education or reading instruction.~~

1 ~~(3) The student tutors will be required to complete an~~
2 ~~appropriate credit or noncredit training program.~~

3 ~~(4) The State Board of Higher Education shall annually establish~~
4 ~~the hourly rate of compensation for students participating in the program~~
5 ~~based on the anticipated available funding and the projected number of~~
6 ~~participants; however, the hourly rate of compensation shall not be less than~~
7 ~~five dollars (\$5.00) per hour.~~

8 ~~(b)(1) Development of systems for monitoring student training,~~
9 ~~tutoring, and eligibility for payment shall be the responsibility of each~~
10 ~~sponsoring institution within the program rules and regulations.~~

11 ~~(2) The Department of Higher Education shall require periodic~~
12 ~~reports from each sponsoring institution concerning these systems for~~
13 ~~monitoring student training, tutoring, and eligibility for payment and shall~~
14 ~~make payments to sponsoring institutions for costs of administering the~~
15 ~~program and student payments.~~

16
17 ~~6-82-704. Institutional eligibility.~~

18 ~~(a) To be eligible for participation in the Arkansas Literacy Corps as~~
19 ~~a sponsoring institution, an institution must be a public or private college~~
20 ~~or university in the State of Arkansas accredited by a certifying agency~~
21 ~~recognized by the United States Department of Education or give assurance~~
22 ~~that it has the potential for such accreditation and is making progress~~
23 ~~which, if continued, will result in the achievement of such accreditation.~~

24 ~~(b) The institution must not discriminate in the admission of students~~
25 ~~on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.~~

26
27 ~~6-82-705. Student eligibility.~~

28 ~~To be eligible for employment in the Arkansas Literacy Corps, a student~~
29 ~~must:~~

30 ~~(1) Be a resident of the State of Arkansas, as defined by the~~
31 ~~Department of Higher Education, and a United States citizen or permanent~~
32 ~~resident alien;~~

33 ~~(2) Be a full-time student at a sponsoring institution;~~

34 ~~(3) Be either an undergraduate student who has completed at~~
35 ~~least twenty four (24) college semester credit hours, or the equivalent, or a~~
36 ~~graduate student;~~

1 ~~(4) Meet satisfactory progress requirements of the sponsoring~~
2 ~~institutions; and~~

3 ~~(5) Meet such additional requirements consistent with the law~~
4 ~~and rules and regulations relating to this program which the sponsoring~~
5 ~~institution may impose.~~

6
7 ~~6-82-706. Administration.~~

8 ~~(a) The Department of Higher Education shall administer the Arkansas~~
9 ~~Literacy Corps and shall have the authority to establish necessary rules,~~
10 ~~regulations, and procedures for the administration of the program.~~

11 ~~(b)(1) The department will utilize an advisory council composed of~~
12 ~~representatives of adult literacy groups, institutions of higher education,~~
13 ~~state agencies involved in adult literacy activities, and the general public.~~

14 ~~(2) The advisory council will provide advice to the department~~
15 ~~in the selection of sponsoring institutions, the establishment of rules,~~
16 ~~regulations, and procedures, and other matters as appropriate.~~

17
18 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 82, Subchapter 9 is
19 repealed.

20 ~~6-82-901. Title.~~

21 ~~This subchapter shall be known and referred to as the "Arkansas~~
22 ~~Opportunity Scholarship Act".~~

23
24 ~~6-82-902. Legislative findings and declarations.~~

25 ~~(a) The legislature hereby finds that the failure of many young~~
26 ~~Arkansans to complete their secondary education limits their opportunity for~~
27 ~~a life of economic independence and productivity, prevents them from~~
28 ~~advancing into postsecondary education, and hinders the state's efforts to~~
29 ~~provide a well-trained work force for business and industry.~~

30 ~~(b) The legislature further finds that failure of students to complete~~
31 ~~their secondary education can result in great costs to the state from lost~~
32 ~~tax revenues and from the expense of dealing with crime, drug addiction, and~~
33 ~~other social ills that often correlate with low educational achievement.~~

34 ~~(c) The legislature further finds that programs which encourage young~~
35 ~~people to complete their secondary education and adopt postsecondary~~
36 ~~educational goals, and assure that limited family income will not be a~~

1 ~~barrier to seeking a postsecondary education can motivate students to~~
2 ~~complete high school and to pursue further education. Accordingly, the~~
3 ~~legislature hereby establishes:~~

4 ~~(1) The Opportunity Scholarship Program to provide young people~~
5 ~~the opportunity to pursue a college education upon their graduation from high~~
6 ~~school; and~~

7 ~~(2) The Opportunity Partnership Program, which will foster~~
8 ~~community support for these students, with specific provision for counseling~~
9 ~~and personal support services to encourage successful high school completion.~~

10
11 ~~6-82-903. Opportunity Scholarship Fund.~~

12 ~~The Department of Higher Education shall immediately establish with~~
13 ~~appropriated funds an Opportunity Scholarship Fund. Beginning with the 1992-~~
14 ~~1993 academic year, and for each academic year thereafter, the department of~~
15 ~~higher education shall, pursuant to the terms of this subchapter and §§ 6-15-~~
16 ~~701 and 6-15-702 and the department's regulatory guidelines, award matching~~
17 ~~grants from the fund to eligible students as defined in § 6-82-904.~~

18
19 ~~6-82-904. Eligible students.~~

20 ~~Opportunity scholarships shall be awarded, contingent upon state funds~~
21 ~~becoming available, to all eligible students:~~

22 ~~(1) Who have applied for this scholarship in accordance with~~
23 ~~procedures established by the Department of Higher Education;~~

24 ~~(2) Who live in Arkansas;~~

25 ~~(3) Who have graduated from an accredited secondary school in~~
26 ~~Arkansas or have passed the General Educational Development Test and received~~
27 ~~a high school equivalency diploma;~~

28 ~~(4) Who have demonstrated financial need; and~~

29 ~~(5) For whom a local matching scholarship award has been made~~
30 ~~available by a school or community foundation in compliance with the~~
31 ~~Department's published guidelines for the establishment and operation of~~
32 ~~these local private scholarship funds.~~

33
34 ~~6-82-905. Amount of scholarships.~~

35 ~~(a) The Department of Higher Education shall have the complete~~
36 ~~authority to fix the dollar value of each opportunity scholarship to be~~

1 awarded.

2 ~~(b) In determining the appropriate level of each award, the department~~
3 ~~shall consider the individual student's financial need, the size of the local~~
4 ~~matching award relative to the local community's capacity to lend private~~
5 ~~financial support, the availability of other sources of student financial~~
6 ~~assistance, plus any additional factors deemed significant by the department~~
7 ~~at the time of the award.~~

8 ~~(c) In determining a student's financial needs, the department shall~~
9 ~~take into account a student's tuition and room and board, as well as~~
10 ~~additional expenses related to enrollment and matriculation, such as books~~
11 ~~and travel.~~

12

13 ~~6-82-906. Construction.~~

14 ~~Nothing in this subchapter is intended to imply that an opportunity~~
15 ~~scholarship be a replacement or substitute for any other state educational~~
16 ~~grant or loan which the student is otherwise eligible to receive.~~

17 ~~Opportunity scholarships are to supplement other state educational~~
18 ~~assistance.~~

19

20 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 82, Subchapter 13 is
21 repealed.

22 ~~6-82-1301. Legislative findings and purposes.~~

23 ~~The General Assembly hereby finds and determines that many of the young~~
24 ~~people who attend and graduate from high schools in the Delta region of~~
25 ~~Arkansas cannot afford college and do not qualify for college scholarships.~~
26 ~~They will likely remain in the region, where there are few opportunities for~~
27 ~~developing job skills and obtaining meaningful employment without further~~
28 ~~education. As a result, poverty and crime rates in the Delta region are apt~~
29 ~~to rise even higher in coming years.~~

30 ~~—The General Assembly further finds that one of the most important~~
31 ~~aspects of the historical mission of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff~~
32 ~~is to provide education to those students who cannot afford to go elsewhere~~
33 ~~and to be especially sensitive to the needs and problems of these students.~~
34 ~~It is the purpose of this subchapter to extend an opportunity to young people~~
35 ~~in the Delta for education and a better life by establishing this scholarship~~
36 ~~program for them.~~

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~~6-82-1302. Eligibility.~~

~~(a) There is established at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff a Delta Region Scholarship Program for awarding scholarships to eligible students.~~

~~(b) Eligibility for a Delta Region Scholarship in the amount of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) shall be based on the criteria set forth in this subchapter.~~

~~(c) A student shall be eligible for an initial scholarship award from this program if he or she meets all of the following criteria:~~

~~(1) The recipient shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age and a graduate of a public high school located in the Arkansas Delta region, as defined by the Department of Higher Education;~~

~~(2) The recipient shall have a minimum cumulative grade point average in high school of 2.0;~~

~~(3) The recipient shall have been a resident of the State of Arkansas for at least twelve (12) months prior to graduation from high school; and~~

~~(4) The recipient must be accepted for admission at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff as a first-time entering freshman.~~

~~6-82-1303. Renewal.~~

~~(a) The recipient of a Delta Region Scholarship awarded under this subchapter may have the scholarship renewed each semester for a maximum of eight (8) semesters if he or she remains eligible under program rules and regulations adopted by the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, with the advice of the Department of Higher Education and as funding is available.~~

~~(b) Participation in the Delta Region Scholarship Program at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff shall be limited to a maximum of fifty (50) students the first year, with additional students added each succeeding year as funding is available.~~

SECTION 10. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 82, Subchapter 4 is repealed.

~~6-82-1401. Legislative findings and purpose.~~

~~The General Assembly hereby finds and determines that the University of~~

1 ~~Arkansas at Pine Bluff has both an historical and an evolving mission. The~~
2 ~~institution was originally established to provide higher education to area~~
3 ~~students who might not be adequately prepared to go elsewhere. The creation~~
4 ~~of an Honors College in 1992, however, reflects a commitment by the~~
5 ~~University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff to increase the number of talented,~~
6 ~~gifted, and committed students so that the general student population will~~
7 ~~benefit from the leadership and presence of these students. It is the purpose~~
8 ~~of this subchapter to provide the means to recruit more students who have~~
9 ~~superior academic ability and thereby benefit all students.~~

10
11 ~~6-82-1402. Eligibility.~~

12 ~~(a) There is established at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff~~
13 ~~an Honors College Scholarship Program for awarding scholarships to eligible~~
14 ~~students.~~

15 ~~(b) Eligibility for an Honors College Scholarship in the amount of one~~
16 ~~thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) shall be based on the criteria set~~
17 ~~forth in this subchapter.~~

18 ~~(c) A student shall be eligible for an initial scholarship award from~~
19 ~~this program if he or she:~~

20 ~~(1) Is a high school graduate with a minimum cumulative grade~~
21 ~~point average of 3.0;~~

22 ~~(2) Is a resident of the State of Arkansas;~~

23 ~~(3) Is a citizen of the United States or a permanent resident~~
24 ~~alien; and~~

25 ~~(4) Is accepted for admission at the University of Arkansas at~~
26 ~~Pine Bluff as a full-time student, as defined by the university.~~

27
28 ~~6-82-1403. Renewal.~~

29 ~~(a) The recipient of an Honors College Scholarship awarded under this~~
30 ~~subchapter shall be eligible for a renewed scholarship award from this~~
31 ~~program if he or she:~~

32 ~~(1) Maintains a 3.25 grade point average;~~

33 ~~(2) Remains an active participant in the Honors College;~~

34 ~~(3) Remains eligible, as determined by the university.~~

35 ~~(b) Participation in the Honors College Scholarship Program at the~~
36 ~~University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff shall be limited to a maximum of ten~~

1 ~~(10) students the first year, with additional students added each succeeding~~
2 ~~year as funding is available.~~

3
4 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 82, Subchapter 12 is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 6-82-1201. Purpose.

7 It is the purpose of this subchapter:

8 ~~(1) To provide educational opportunities at Arkansas public~~
9 ~~institutions of higher education for certified law enforcement officers and~~
10 ~~students who possess a sincere interest in public service in the form of law~~
11 ~~enforcement to obtain baccalaureate degrees in courses of study that will~~
12 ~~benefit and complement work in the field of law enforcement;~~

13 ~~(2) To to establish the Arkansas Police Corps Planning~~
14 ~~Commission Program, including the creation of a commission authorized to~~
15 ~~promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement a police corps~~
16 ~~program in Arkansas;~~

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

18 ~~(4) To undertake for the purpose of undertaking the necessary~~
19 ~~planning and other actions required to enable Arkansas to participate in the~~
20 ~~federal police corps program.~~

21
22 6-82-1202. Arkansas Police Corps Planning Commission ~~—Arkansas Police~~
23 ~~Corps Program.~~

24 (a) There is hereby established the Arkansas Police Corps Planning
25 Commission.

26 (b) The commission shall be appointed by the Governor and shall have
27 eleven (11) members:

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

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

30 (3) The Director of the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training
31 Academy;

32 (4) A representative of the Arkansas Municipal Police
33 Association;

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

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

36 (7) Two (2) faculty members or administrators from institutions

1 of higher education with accredited criminal justice programs;

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

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

4 (c)(1) The Director of the Criminal Justice Institute or the
5 director's designee shall serve as an ex officio member and as chairman of
6 the commission.

7 (2) The commission shall meet at the call of the chairman.

8 ~~(d) The commission shall develop a state plan for implementation of~~
9 ~~the Arkansas Police Corps Program. The plan shall include rules and~~
10 ~~regulations for operation of the Arkansas Police Corps Program and the~~
11 ~~Arkansas Police Corps Scholarship Program.~~

12 ~~(e) The police corps training plan adopted by the commission shall:~~

13 ~~(1) Provide for the screening and selection of police corps~~
14 ~~participants;~~

15 ~~(2) State procedures for assignment of participants in the~~
16 ~~Arkansas Police Corps to state police, municipal police, and sheriffs'~~
17 ~~offices; and~~

18 ~~(3) Provide for other rules and regulations as may be necessary~~
19 ~~to provide for the training of program participants, including law~~
20 ~~enforcement certification training during the summer for participants under~~
21 ~~the age of twenty one (21), operation of the program, and administration of~~
22 ~~the scholarship program.~~

23 ~~(f) A minimum of twelve (12) credit hours per year must be~~
24 ~~satisfactorily completed each academic year.~~

25 ~~(g)~~(d) Should the federal government create a national police corps
26 program, the Arkansas Police Corps Planning Commission shall be the entity
27 designated to administer the state's participation in the federal program.

28
29 ~~6-82-1203. Number, amount, eligibility, and award of scholarships.~~

30 ~~(a) Scholarship recipients shall be selected by the Arkansas Police~~
31 ~~Corps Planning Commission.~~

32 ~~(b)(1) The number of scholarships awarded annually under the Arkansas~~
33 ~~Police Corps Program cannot exceed the expected number of officers needed by~~
34 ~~Arkansas police forces or other law enforcement agencies.~~

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

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

3 ~~(3) Any scholarships awarded under this program shall be~~
4 ~~contingent on the availability of sufficient funds from a revenue source~~
5 ~~dedicated to this purpose.~~

6 ~~(c)(1) Scholarship recipients shall receive a police corps scholarship~~
7 ~~equal to actual book and tuition costs for six (6) or more hours each~~
8 ~~semester.~~

9 ~~(2) Scholarship awards shall be renewable provided that~~
10 ~~recipients meet continuing eligibility criteria established through program~~
11 ~~rules and regulations.~~

12 ~~(d) Eligible recipients for scholarships shall include applicants who~~
13 ~~intend to enter the field of law enforcement but who are not employed as and~~
14 ~~have not worked previously as law enforcement officers, in addition to~~
15 ~~current law enforcement officers.~~

16 ~~(e)(1) Each non law enforcement recipient shall be required to~~
17 ~~successfully complete the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy~~
18 ~~curriculum for basic certification during or after completing a course of~~
19 ~~study which results in receipt of a bachelor's degree.~~

20 ~~(2) A scholarship recipient who fails to secure a full time paid~~
21 ~~position as a police officer or law enforcement officer within one (1) year~~
22 ~~of graduating from college and from the academy shall repay with interest the~~
23 ~~amount of any scholarship funds received under this subchapter.~~

24 ~~(3)(A) Recipients of scholarship awards shall also be required~~
25 ~~to complete one (1) full year of service as a state, municipal, or sheriff's~~
26 ~~department law enforcement officer for every thirty (30) hours attempted in~~
27 ~~which scholarship aid was received under the program.~~

28 ~~(B) Failure to meet this service obligation shall mean~~
29 ~~that the scholarship recipient must repay with interest the amount of any~~
30 ~~scholarship funds received under this subchapter.~~

31
32 6-82-1204. Administration.

33 ~~(a) The Department of Higher Education and the Arkansas Police Corps~~
34 ~~Planning Commission are authorized to promulgate rules and regulations for~~
35 ~~the administration of this program, consistent with the purposes and~~
36 ~~requirements of this subchapter.~~

1 ~~(b)(1)(a)~~ The commission is hereby designated as the state agency
 2 responsible for implementing any federal law enforcement scholarship program
 3 which may be established.

4 ~~(2)(b)~~ The commission shall have authority to promulgate rules and
 5 regulations necessary for the administration and operation of any such
 6 program in the State of Arkansas.

7
 8 SECTION 12. Arkansas Code 19-5-1065 is repealed.

9 ~~19-5-1065. Nursing Student Loan Revolving Fund.~~

10 ~~(a) There is hereby established on the books of the Treasurer of~~
 11 ~~State, Auditor of State, and Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a fund to be~~
 12 ~~known as the Nursing Student Loan Revolving Fund.~~

13 ~~(b) This fund shall consist of funds appropriated for the Nursing~~
 14 ~~Student Loan Program, federal funds, gifts, grants, bequests, devises, and~~
 15 ~~donations, there to be used by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing for making~~
 16 ~~loans under the provisions of § 6-81-301 et seq.~~

17
 18 SECTION 13. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 81, Subchapter 8 is
 19 repealed.

20 ~~6-81-801. Creation.~~

21 ~~There is hereby established a program to be known as "The Minority~~
 22 ~~Teacher Education Loan Program" to be administered by the Department of~~
 23 ~~Higher Education.~~

24
 25 ~~6-81-802. Purpose.~~

26 ~~Arkansas has experienced decreasing numbers of black students pursuing~~
 27 ~~certification as public school teachers and decreasing proportions of black~~
 28 ~~high school graduates entering college with the result that inadequate~~
 29 ~~numbers of black Arkansans are completing teacher certification programs and~~
 30 ~~black students in the public schools of Arkansas are not exposed to~~
 31 ~~sufficient numbers of teachers who are examples of college educated black~~
 32 ~~Arkansans. The purpose of this subchapter is to provide loans to assist and~~
 33 ~~encourage black and other minority Arkansans to enter and complete programs~~
 34 ~~leading to certification as public school teachers. The program will provide~~
 35 ~~loans to students admitted to, and within two (2) years of completing,~~
 36 ~~teacher certification programs.~~

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~~6-81-803. Student eligibility—Initial awards.~~

~~(a) The term "minority" when used in this subchapter shall refer to Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans, which group includes all persons having origins in any of the original peoples of North America and who maintain cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.~~

~~(b) The Department of Higher Education may make initial awards to minority students who meet the following conditions:~~

~~(1) Are residents of the State of Arkansas, as defined by the Department of Higher Education, and citizens of the United States or permanent resident aliens;~~

~~(2) Are within two (2) years of completing initial certification as classroom teachers; and~~

~~(3)(A) Are admitted to an approved program resulting in teacher certification, or plan to transfer to an institution with an approved teacher certification program;~~

~~(B) Have a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 system, or its equivalent; and~~

~~(C) Are able to be admitted to the program within the first semester at the new institution.~~

~~6-81-804. Student eligibility—Loan renewal.~~

~~The Department of Higher Education may renew awards to students who meet the following conditions:~~

~~(1) Remain residents of the State of Arkansas, as defined by the department, and are citizens of the United States or permanent resident aliens;~~

~~(2) Maintain a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 system, or its equivalent; and~~

~~(3) Complete at least twenty four (24) semester credit hours, or its equivalent, applicable toward teacher certification during the first academic year of the loan.~~

~~6-81-805. Loan conditions.~~

~~(a) Recipients must indicate an intention to teach in the public~~

1 ~~schools of Arkansas and be enrolled as full-time students pursuing initial~~
2 ~~certification.~~

3 ~~(b) Students may receive the loan for a maximum of four (4) semesters,~~
4 ~~or its equivalent, and may utilize the loan upon transfer to any eligible~~
5 ~~institution.~~

6
7 ~~6-81-806. Number and amount of loan.~~

8 ~~(a) The number of initial loan awards in each year shall not exceed~~
9 ~~one hundred (100).~~

10 ~~(b) The amount for each student's loan shall be three thousand dollars~~
11 ~~(\$3,000) per year.~~

12
13 ~~6-81-807. Institutional eligibility.~~

14 ~~(a) The institution to be attended under the loan program must be a~~
15 ~~state or independent four-year institution located in Arkansas, meet federal~~
16 ~~institutional eligibility requirements, and be approved by the Department of~~
17 ~~Higher Education for the teacher certification program chosen by the student.~~

18 ~~(b) The institution nominating the student for the loan must be a~~
19 ~~state or independent two-year or four-year institution located in Arkansas,~~
20 ~~meet federal institutional eligibility requirements, and offer the~~
21 ~~prerequisite courses for the teacher certification program chosen by the~~
22 ~~student.~~

23
24 ~~6-81-808. Selection process.~~

25 ~~(a) Students must be nominated for the loan by an eligible institution~~
26 ~~and selected by a process administered by the Department of Higher Education.~~

27 ~~(b) The Department of Higher Education shall allocate the numbers of~~
28 ~~nominations to be submitted among the institutions eligible to make~~
29 ~~nominations, with consideration given to the number of teacher education~~
30 ~~graduates, the fall total full-time equivalent enrollment, the utilization of~~
31 ~~loans in the previous year, and such other factors as the department shall~~
32 ~~determine.~~

33
34 ~~6-81-809. Cancellation of repayment of loans — Failure to repay.~~

35 ~~(a) Loan recipients who teach full-time in a public school in Arkansas~~
36 ~~following teacher certification shall, upon annual certification by an~~

1 ~~appropriate school official, have forgiven one fifth (1/5) of the total loan,~~
2 ~~and related interest, for each year employed in such capacity to a maximum of~~
3 ~~five (5) years, when the total loan and accumulated interest will be~~
4 ~~forgiven.~~

5 ~~(b) Loan recipients who do not teach full time in a public school in~~
6 ~~Arkansas upon completing their program of study shall repay, within a maximum~~
7 ~~of five (5) years, the full remaining balance plus accrued interest according~~
8 ~~to an interest and repayment schedule developed by the Department of Higher~~
9 ~~Education.~~

10 ~~(c) Loan recipients required to repay as provided in subsection (b) of~~
11 ~~this section who fail to meet their repayment obligations may have added to~~
12 ~~their total obligation any costs for collection of the debt and shall have~~
13 ~~their teachers' certifications in Arkansas revoked.~~

14
15 ~~6-81-810. Administration.~~

16 ~~The Department of Higher Education shall administer the Minority~~
17 ~~Teacher Education Loan Program and shall have the following authority and~~
18 ~~responsibility with respect to the program:~~

19 ~~(1) To adopt rules and regulations for the administration of the~~
20 ~~program consistent with the provisions of this subchapter, including, but not~~
21 ~~restricted to, the termination date for acceptance of applications and the~~
22 ~~procedures for payment of loans to recipients;~~

23 ~~(2) To establish and consult as necessary with an advisory~~
24 ~~committee representing public elementary and secondary schools and the public~~
25 ~~and private institutions eligible for nomination and attendance under this~~
26 ~~subchapter in determining rules and regulations, selecting recipients, and~~
27 ~~such other matters as are necessary;~~

28 ~~(3) To prepare application forms or such other forms as the~~
29 ~~department shall deem necessary to properly administer and carry out the~~
30 ~~purpose of this subchapter; and~~

31 ~~(4) To designate necessary forms and repayment schedules.~~

32
33 ~~SECTION 14. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 81, Subchapter 9 is~~
34 ~~repealed.~~

35 ~~6-81-901. Creation.~~

36 ~~There is hereby established a program to be known as "The~~

1 ~~Freshman/Sophomore Minority Prospective Teacher Loan Program" to be~~
2 ~~administered by the Department of Higher Education.~~

3
4 ~~6-81-902. Purpose.~~

5 ~~The purpose of this subchapter is to increase the number of black and~~
6 ~~other minority Arkansans attending college with the intent of pursuing~~
7 ~~certification to teach in the public schools of Arkansas. The need for the~~
8 ~~program results from the decrease in the number of black students in teacher~~
9 ~~certification programs, the decreasing proportions of black high school~~
10 ~~graduates entering college, and the resulting inadequate opportunities for~~
11 ~~black public school students to experience black teachers who serve as~~
12 ~~examples of college educated black Arkansans. The program will provide loans~~
13 ~~to students in their first two (2) years of college who are preparing for~~
14 ~~admission to teacher certification programs.~~

15
16 ~~6-81-903. Student eligibility—Initial awards.~~

17 ~~(a) The term "minority" when used in this subchapter shall refer to~~
18 ~~Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans,~~
19 ~~which group includes all persons having origins in any of the peoples of~~
20 ~~North America and who maintain cultural identification through tribal~~
21 ~~affiliation or community recognition.~~

22 ~~(b) State and independent institutions of higher education may make~~
23 ~~initial awards to minority students who meet the following conditions:~~

24 ~~(1) Are residents of the State of Arkansas, as defined by the~~
25 ~~Department of Higher Education, and citizens of the United States or~~
26 ~~permanent resident aliens;~~

27 ~~(2) Are first-time freshmen who state their intent to enter a~~
28 ~~teacher certification program and teach in the public schools of Arkansas;~~

29 ~~(3) Are students with academic potential based upon a~~
30 ~~combination of standardized test scores and high school grades; and~~

31 ~~(4) Are students who have completed a specified minimum general~~
32 ~~education core of academic courses in high school.~~

33
34 ~~6-81-904. Student eligibility—Loan renewal.~~

35 ~~State and independent institutions of higher education may renew awards~~
36 ~~to students who meet the following conditions:~~

1 ~~(1) Remain residents of the State of Arkansas, as defined by the~~
2 ~~Department of Higher Education, and are citizens of the United States or~~
3 ~~permanent resident aliens;~~

4 ~~(2) Maintain the intent to pursue a teacher certification~~
5 ~~program and teach in the public schools of Arkansas; and~~

6 ~~(3) Earn a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 system, or its~~
7 ~~equivalent, which the institution would normally specify for students who~~
8 ~~plan to major in a teacher education program.~~

9
10 ~~6-81-905. Loan conditions.~~

11 ~~(a) A recipient must be enrolled as a full-time student in courses in,~~
12 ~~or preparing for entry to, an approved teacher certification program and~~
13 ~~indicate the intent to teach in the public schools of Arkansas.~~

14 ~~(b) Upon completion of at least one (1) year at the selecting~~
15 ~~institutions, a student eligible for continuation of the loan may utilize it~~
16 ~~upon transfer to any eligible institution. A student may receive the loan~~
17 ~~for a maximum of four (4) semesters, or its equivalent.~~

18
19 ~~6-81-906. Number and amount of loan.~~

20 ~~(a) The number of initial loan awards in each year shall not exceed~~
21 ~~one hundred fifty (150).~~

22 ~~(b) The amount for each student's annual loan shall be two thousand~~
23 ~~dollars (\$2,000).~~

24
25 ~~6-81-907. Institutional eligibility.~~

26 ~~(a) The institution to be attended under the loan program must be a~~
27 ~~state or independent four-year or two-year institution in Arkansas and offer~~
28 ~~the prerequisite courses for entry into teacher certification programs.~~

29 ~~(b) The Department of Higher Education shall allocate initial loans~~
30 ~~among eligible institutions with consideration given to each institution's~~
31 ~~share of the fall total full-time equivalent enrollment, utilization of loans~~
32 ~~in the previous year, and other such factors as the department shall~~
33 ~~determine.~~

34
35 ~~6-81-908. Selection process.~~

36 ~~(a) Participating eligible institutions will select students under~~

1 ~~rules and regulations adopted by the Department of Higher Education so as to~~
2 ~~encourage additional minority students to enter college and prepare for entry~~
3 ~~into teacher certification programs and choose the most academically~~
4 ~~qualified minority students who meet the minimum requirements established for~~
5 ~~the program.~~

6 ~~(b) Institutions may establish requirements more restrictive than the~~
7 ~~minimum requirements established for the program so long as they do not~~
8 ~~conflict with the program requirements established by law, rule, and~~
9 ~~regulation.~~

10
11 ~~6-81-909. Cancellation of repayment of loans—Failure to repay.~~

12 ~~(a) Loan recipients who teach full time in a public school in Arkansas~~
13 ~~following teacher certification shall, upon annual certification by an~~
14 ~~appropriate school official, have forgiven one fifth (1/5) of the total loan~~
15 ~~payment, and related interest, for each year employed in such capacity to a~~
16 ~~maximum of five (5) years, when the total loan and accumulated interest will~~
17 ~~be forgiven.~~

18 ~~(b) Loan recipients who do not teach full time in a public school in~~
19 ~~Arkansas upon completing their program of study shall repay, within a maximum~~
20 ~~of five (5) years, the full remaining balance plus accrued interest according~~
21 ~~to an interest and repayment schedule developed by the Department of Higher~~
22 ~~Education.~~

23 ~~(c) Loan recipients required to repay as provided in subsection (b) of~~
24 ~~this section who fail to meet their repayment obligations may have added to~~
25 ~~their total obligation any costs for collection of the debt and shall have~~
26 ~~their teaching certifications in Arkansas revoked by the State Board of~~
27 ~~Education.~~

28
29 ~~6-81-910. Administration.~~

30 ~~The Department of Higher Education shall administer the Minority~~
31 ~~Prospective Teacher Loan Program and shall have the following authority and~~
32 ~~responsibility with respect to the program:~~

33 ~~(1) To adopt rules and regulations for the administration of the~~
34 ~~program consistent with the provisions of this subchapter, including, but not~~
35 ~~restricted to, the termination date for acceptance and applications and~~
36 ~~procedures for payment of loans to recipients;~~

1 ~~(2) To establish and consult as necessary with an advisory~~
 2 ~~committee representing public elementary and secondary schools and the public~~
 3 ~~and private institutions eligible for nomination and attendance under this~~
 4 ~~subchapter in determining rules and regulations, selecting recipients, and~~
 5 ~~such other matters as are necessary;~~

6 ~~(3) To prepare application forms or such other forms as the~~
 7 ~~department shall deem necessary to properly administer and carry out the~~
 8 ~~purpose of this subchapter; and~~

9 ~~(4) To designate necessary forms and repayment schedules.~~

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 11 /s/ Mahony
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