

State of Arkansas  
83rd General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2001

## A Bill

SENATE BILL 981

By: Senator Whitaker

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO PRIORITIZE AWARDS BASED ON  
FINANCIAL NEED; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC  
CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO  
PRIORITIZE AWARDS BASED ON FINANCIAL  
NEED.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 6-82-1002 is amended to read as follows:  
6-82-1002. Definitions.

For purposes of this subchapter, the following terms shall be defined  
as indicated:

(1)(A) "Approved institution" means a public or private college or  
university located in Arkansas that is accredited by the North Central  
Association, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education, or which  
certifies to the Department of Higher Education that its students are  
accepted for transfer at institutions accredited by the North Central  
Association, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education.

(B) Further, ~~such an approved~~ institution shall not discriminate  
against applicants, students, or employees on the basis of race, color,  
religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin, consistent with the  
provisions of applicable state and federal law;

(2) "Full-time undergraduate student" means a resident of Arkansas who

1 attends an approved institution of higher education and is enrolled for at  
 2 least twelve (12) credit hours per semester or the equivalent, as defined by  
 3 the Department of Higher Education, in a program of study which leads to or  
 4 is creditable toward a baccalaureate degree;

5 (3) "Eligible student" means any student who meets the criteria set  
 6 out by this subchapter and is deemed to be eligible by rules and regulations  
 7 authorized by this subchapter and promulgated by the Department of Higher  
 8 Education;

9 (4) "Financial need" means the family income of program applicants as  
 10 determined by the Department of Higher Education through evaluation of  
 11 program applications and supporting documentation;

12 (5) "Recipient" means an applicant awarded a scholarship funded  
 13 through the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program;

14 ~~(5)(6)(A)~~ "Tuition" means charges levied for attendance at an eligible  
 15 institution of higher education.

16 (B) For purposes of this subchapter, tuition charges shall not  
 17 include any fees charged or used for student activities, including any  
 18 student athletic fee; and

19 ~~(6)(7)~~ "Unemancipated child" or "unemancipated children" means a  
 20 dependent child or dependent children as defined by the United States  
 21 Department of Education for student aid purposes.

22  
 23 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code 6-82-1003 is amended to read as follows:  
 24 6-82-1003. Creation.

25 There is hereby created and established the Arkansas Academic Challenge  
 26 Scholarship Program. ~~Recipients of the scholarships funded through this~~  
 27 ~~program shall be known as Academic Challenge Award recipients.~~

28  
 29 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code 6-82-1005 is amended by adding an additional  
 30 subsection to read as follows:

31 (f) A recipient of a Governor's Distinguished Scholarship is  
 32 prohibited from receiving an Academic Challenge Scholarship.

33  
 34 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code 6-82-1006(e) is repealed.

35 ~~(e) None of the scholarships awarded to students under the terms of~~  
 36 ~~this subchapter are intended to replace or substitute for other forms of~~

~~state funded scholarships or grants.~~

SECTION 5. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is hereby found and determined by the Eighty-third General Assembly that applicants graduating in May, 2001 would experience uncertainty regarding eligibility for the Academic Challenge Scholarship, and many applicants may be delayed in beginning their post-secondary education without a date certain to determine eligibility for the program. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall become effective on March 1, 2001.