

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 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1854

4
5 By: Representative Cleveland
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE
10 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO GIVE PRIORITY IN AWARDS TO
11 APPLICANTS AGREEING TO TEACH IN SUBJECT MATTER
12 AREAS OF CRITICAL NEED OR IN ACADEMICALLY LOW
13 PERFORMING SCHOOLS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

15
16 AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC
17 CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO GIVE
18 PRIORITY IN AWARDS TO APPLICANTS
19 AGREEING TO TEACH IN SUBJECT MATTER
20 AREAS OF CRITICAL NEED OR IN
21 ACADEMICALLY LOW PERFORMING SCHOOLS.
22
23

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1001 is amended to read as follows:
27 6-82-1001. Legislative findings and declarations of public necessity.
28 The General Assembly hereby recognizes that taking the proper course
29 work in high school is essential for success in college. Arkansas high
30 school students who complete the recommended precollegiate or technical
31 preparation core curriculum score significantly higher on standardized
32 preadmissions tests and are more likely to be successful in college. Because
33 the State of Arkansas also benefits from the academic success of well-
34 prepared college students, there is hereby established the Arkansas Academic
35 Challenge Scholarship Program, a college scholarship plan to promote academic
36 achievement and encourage academically prepared Arkansas high school



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1 graduates to enroll in the state’s colleges and universities, and to
 2 encourage students to enter the field of teaching for the purpose of teaching
 3 in areas of critical teacher shortage in the state.
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5 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 82, Subchapter 10, is
 6 amended by adding an additional section to read as follows:

7 6-82-1008. Priority for teaching commitment.

8 (a) The Department of Higher Education shall give a priority for
 9 awards under this chapter to applicants who agree to accept a forgivable loan
 10 as set forth in section § 6-82-1009 in lieu of a scholarship, and agree to:

11 (1) Teach, as required under § 6-82-1009, in a subject matter
 12 area designated by the Department of Education as having a critical shortage
 13 of teachers; or

14 (2) Teach, as required under § 6-82-1009, in a public school
 15 designated by the Department of Education as being an academically low-
 16 performing school.

17 (b) The Department of Higher Education shall make awards under this
 18 chapter as follows:

19 (1) First, to applicants who agree to the provisions of §6-82-
 20 1008(a)(1);

21 (2) Second, to applicants who agree to the provisions of §6-82-
 22 1008(a)(2); and

23 (3) Third, to applicants eligible under § 6-82-1005(b).

24 (c) Forgivable loans awarded under this section shall be paid from
 25 appropriations to the Academic Challenge Scholarship fund.
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27 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 82, Subchapter 10, is
 28 amended by adding an additional section to read as follows:

29 6-82-1009. Teaching requirements.

30 (a)(1) At the beginning of the first school year in which a recipient
 31 of a forgivable loan under § 6-82-1008 is eligible for employment as a
 32 licensed teacher, that recipient shall begin to render service as a licensed
 33 teacher in a public school district in the state:

34 (A) In a subject matter area designated by the Department
 35 of Education as having a critical shortage of teachers, if the recipient’s
 36 award was made under § 6-82-1008(a)(1); or

1 (B) Designated by the Department of Education as being an
 2 academically low-performing school, if the recipient's award was made under
 3 § 6-82-1008(a)(2).

4 (2)(A) Any recipient receiving a forgivable loan under § 6-82-
 5 1008 who received four (4) annual awards, or the equivalent of four (4)
 6 annual awards, shall render four (4) years' service as a licensed teacher.

7 (B) Any person who received a forgivable loan under § 6-
 8 82-1008 in an amount less than four (4) annual awards, or the equivalent of
 9 four (4) annual awards, shall render one (1) year's service as a licensed
 10 teacher for each year that the person received a full-time student forgivable
 11 loan, or for the number of academic hours equivalent to one (1) school year,
 12 as determined by the Department of Higher Education, for which a part-time
 13 student received a forgivable loan.

14 (b) Any person receiving a forgivable loan shall execute a note made
 15 payable to the Department of Higher Education for an amount equal to the
 16 scholarship award each semester that shall bear interest at a rate to be
 17 determined by the Department of Higher Education and set forth in the note,
 18 after completion of the program or immediately after termination of the
 19 forgivable loan, whichever is earlier.

20 (c) Any person failing to complete a program of study which will
 21 enable the person to become a licensed teacher shall begin repaying the note
 22 according to the note's terms for the sum of all forgivable loan awards made
 23 to that person, less the corresponding amount of any awards for which service
 24 has been rendered.

25 (d)(1) Except as provided in subdivision (d)(1)(B), any person failing
 26 to complete the teaching obligation, as required by this chapter, shall
 27 become immediately liable to the Department of Higher Education for the sum
 28 of all forgivable loan awards made to that person, less the corresponding
 29 amount of any awards for which service has been rendered according to the
 30 note's terms.

31 (A) The Department of Higher Education may defer payment
 32 on the note if an employment position is not immediately available upon a
 33 teacher's completion of licensure requirements.

34 (B) After the period of deferral, the person shall begin
 35 or resume teaching duties as required under this section or shall become
 36 liable to the board under this section.

1 (e) If a claim for payment under this section is placed in the hands
2 of an attorney for collection, the obligor shall be liable for an additional
3 amount equal to a reasonable attorney's fee.

4 (f) The obligations made by the recipient of a forgivable loan under §
5 6-82-1008 and this section shall not be voidable by reason of the age of the
6 student at the time of receiving the forgivable loan award.

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