

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 2187

4
5 By: Representative C. Johnson
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE CRITICAL NEEDS MINORITY
10 TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; TO CREATE A
11 COMMISSION FOR SELECTING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS;
12 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
13

Subtitle

14
15 AN ACT TO AMEND THE CRITICAL NEEDS
16 MINORITY TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; TO
17 CREATE A COMMISSION FOR SELECTING
18 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1502(b), concerning the purpose for
24 establishing the Critical Needs Minority Teacher Scholarship Program, is
25 amended to read as follows:

26 (b) The purpose of the program is to attract qualified minority
27 teachers to the Delta and those geographical areas of ~~this~~ the state where
28 there exists a critical shortage of teachers by awarding ~~full~~ scholarships to
29 minorities declaring an intention to serve in the teaching field who actually
30 render service to this state while possessing an appropriate teaching
31 license.
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33 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1503 is amended to read as follows:
34 6-82-1503. Eligibility for scholarship - Amount.

35 (a)(1) The term "minority" when used in this subchapter shall refer to
36 Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans.



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1 (2) The Native American group includes all persons having
 2 origins in any of the original peoples of North America and who maintain
 3 cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.

4 (b) Any individual who is a minority and who is enrolled in or
 5 accepted for enrollment at a baccalaureate degree granting institution of
 6 higher learning whose teacher education program is approved by the State
 7 Board of Education or at an accredited state-supported community college in
 8 the State of Arkansas who expresses in writing an intention to teach in a
 9 geographical area of the state in which there exists a critical shortage of
 10 teachers, as designated by the State Board of Education, shall be eligible
 11 for a financial scholarship to be applied toward the costs of the
 12 individual's college education, if:

13 ~~(1) Except as provided in subdivision (b)(2) of this section,~~
 14 ~~the applicant has successfully completed the core curriculum established by~~
 15 ~~the State Board of Education and the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating~~
 16 ~~Board pursuant to § 6-61-217;~~

17 ~~(2) An applicant who meets the provisions of subdivisions~~
 18 ~~(b)(1)-(4) of this section but who has not completed the core curriculum~~
 19 ~~defined in subdivision (b)(1) of this section by the end of the senior year~~
 20 ~~of high school due to the unavailability of the courses in the applicant's~~
 21 ~~high school shall have a grace period of twelve (12) months from the date of~~
 22 ~~high school graduation in which to make up any course deficiencies required~~
 23 ~~for program eligibility;~~

24 ~~(3)(A) The applicant has demonstrated proficiency in the~~
 25 ~~application of knowledge and skills in reading and writing literacy and~~
 26 ~~mathematics by passing the end of course examinations as may be developed by~~
 27 ~~the Department of Education and as may be designated by the University of~~
 28 ~~Arkansas at Pine Bluff for this purpose.~~

29 ~~(B) "End of course" examinations shall mean those~~
 30 ~~examinations defined in § 6-15-419(4).~~

31 ~~(C)(1) The applicant must have achieved has a grade point~~
 32 ~~average of 2.75 2.5 on a 4.0 scale in high school, if the applicant graduated~~
 33 ~~within the five (5) preceding years in the set of core curriculum courses;~~
 34 ~~and~~

35 ~~(4)(2) The applicant scored nineteen (19) or above on the~~
 36 ~~American College Test composite or the equivalent as defined by the~~

1 university.

2 (c)(1) The university is authorized to develop selection criteria
 3 through program rules and regulations which combine an applicant's American
 4 College Test or equivalent score and grade point average in the core
 5 curriculum into a selection index.

6 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions ~~(b)(3)(C)~~
 7 (b)(1) and ~~(b)(4)~~ (b)(2) of this section, this selection index shall be
 8 employed as an alternative selection process for applicants who achieve a
 9 grade point average ~~above 2.75 if attending an approved two year institution~~
 10 ~~or 3.0 if attending a four year institution on a 4.0 scale in the set of core~~
 11 ~~curriculum courses defined in subdivision (b)(1) of this section~~ below 2.5 on
 12 a 4.0 scale or for applicants who have an American College Test composite or
 13 equivalent score greater than nineteen (19).

14 (d)(1) The annual amount of the scholarship shall be one thousand five
 15 hundred dollars (\$1,500) per year.

16 (2) Awards made to nonresidents of the state shall not include
 17 any amount assessed by the college or university for out-of-state tuition.

18 (e)(1) Awards granted under the program shall be available to both
 19 full-time and part-time students.

20 (2) Students enrolling on a full-time basis may receive a
 21 maximum of four (4) annual awards.

22 (3) The maximum number of awards that may be made to students
 23 attending school on a part-time basis and the maximum time period for part-
 24 time students to complete the number of academic hours necessary to obtain a
 25 baccalaureate degree in education shall be established by rules and
 26 regulations jointly promulgated by the university and the ~~department~~
 27 Department of Higher Education.

28 (f) Critical Needs Minority Teacher Scholarships shall not be based
 29 upon an applicant's eligibility for financial aid.

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31 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1504(b) and (c), concerning the
 32 service requirement for scholarship recipients, is amended to read as
 33 follows:

34 (b)(1) Any person who received four (4) annual awards, or the
 35 equivalent of four (4) annual awards, shall render ~~four (4)~~ two (2) years'
 36 service as a licensed teacher.

1 (2) Any person who received fewer than four (4) annual awards or
 2 the equivalent of four (4) annual awards shall render one (1) ~~year's~~ school
 3 semester of service as a licensed teacher for each year that the person
 4 received a full-time student scholarship or for the number of academic hours
 5 equivalent to one (1) school year, as determined by the university, for which
 6 a part-time student received a scholarship.

7 (c) Students receiving a scholarship shall execute a note made payable
 8 to the university for an amount equal to the scholarship award each semester
 9 that shall bear interest at ~~the a rate of ten percent (10%) per year~~ to be
 10 determined by the Department of Higher Education beginning September 1 after
 11 completion of the program or immediately after termination of the scholarship
 12 loan, whichever is earlier.

13
 14 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1505(a), concerning the implementation
 15 of rules and regulations for the Critical Needs Minority Teacher Scholarship
 16 Program, is amended to read as follows:

17 (a) The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and the Department of
 18 Higher Education shall jointly promulgate rules and regulations necessary for
 19 the proper administration of the Critical Needs Minority Teacher Scholarship
 20 Program.

21
 22 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 82, Subchapter 15 is amended
 23 to add an additional section to read as follows:

24 6-82-1506. Commission.

25 (a) There is established a commission to be known as the "Critical
 26 Needs Minority Teacher Scholarship Program Commission".

27 (b) The commission shall consist of five (5) members to be appointed
 28 by the chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

29 (c) The appointed commission members shall be:

30 (1) Individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to education;
 31 and

32 (2) Residents of the State of Arkansas at the time of
 33 appointment and throughout his or her term.

34 (d) The members shall be appointed for terms of two (2) years.

35 (e)(1) If a vacancy occurs in an appointed position, for any reason,
 36 the vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the chancellor of the

1 University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

2 (2) The new appointee shall serve for the remainder of the
3 unexpired term.

4 (f) The chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff shall
5 designate one (1) of the members to serve as chairperson.

6 (g)(1) The commission shall meet at times and places the chairperson
7 deems necessary, but no meetings shall be held outside of the State of
8 Arkansas.

9 (2) Three (3) of the members of the commission shall constitute
10 a quorum for the purpose of transacting business.

11 (3) All action of the commission shall be by approval of a
12 quorum.

13 (h) The commission shall:

14 (1) Select the recipients of the Arkansas Teaching Fellows
15 forgivable loans; and

16 (2) Perform other duties or functions regarding the Critical
17 Needs Minority Teacher Scholarship Program as may be requested by the
18 chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

19 (i)(1) The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff shall provide staff
20 and office space to the commission.

21 (2)(A) Members of the commission shall serve without pay.

22 (B) Members of the commission may receive expense
23 reimbursement in accordance with § 25-16-902, to be paid with funds
24 appropriated for administration of the Critical Needs Minority Teacher
25 Scholarship Program to the extent money is available.

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