

State of Arkansas  
85th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2005

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2610

By: Representative Burris

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE FINANCIAL NEED AND GRADE  
POINT AVERAGE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ARKANSAS  
ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

AN ACT TO AMEND THE FINANCIAL NEED AND  
GRADE POINT AVERAGE REQUIREMENTS OF THE  
ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAM.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1005(b)(6), concerning eligibility for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to read as follows:

(6)(A) The applicant who ~~graduates~~ graduated from an Arkansas high school after December 31, 2001, but before December 31, 2004, must have achieved the following:

(i) A grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in the set of core curriculum courses if enrolling at an approved four-year institution; or

(ii) A grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale in the set of core curriculum courses if enrolling at an approved two-year institution.

(iii)(a) These ~~revised~~ grade point average requirements may be reduced to no lower than a 2.5 on a 4.0 scale by a rules



1 change by the Department of Higher Education if it is determined by the  
2 department, based on the most recent evaluation of the program's operation,  
3 that the change to a 3.0 or 2.75 grade point average on a 4.0 scale would  
4 unduly reduce the number of low-income or disadvantaged students who would  
5 otherwise be eligible for the program.

6 (b) At the Department of Higher Education's  
7 discretion, the Department of Higher Education may make such a reduction for  
8 admissions to institutions with a high percentage of students receiving full  
9 Pell grants upon petition to the Department of Higher Education by the  
10 institution.

11 (B) The applicant scored nineteen (19) or above on the  
12 American College Test composite or the equivalent as defined by the  
13 Department of Higher Education.

14 (C)(i) The Department of Higher Education is authorized to  
15 develop selection criteria through program rules and regulations that combine  
16 an applicant's American College Test or equivalent score and grade point  
17 average in the core curriculum into a selection index.

18 (ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions  
19 (b)(6)(A) and (b)(6)(B) of this section, this selection index shall be  
20 employed as an alternative selection process for applicants who achieve a  
21 grade point average above 2.75 if attending an approved two-year institution  
22 or 3.0 if attending a four-year institution on a 4.0 scale in the set of core  
23 curriculum courses defined in subdivision (b)(5)(A) of this section or for  
24 applicants who have an American College Test composite or equivalent score  
25 greater than nineteen (19).

26 (D)(i) The applicant demonstrates financial need as  
27 defined by the department.

28 (ii) In calculating financial need for applicants  
29 who graduate from an Arkansas high school after December 31, 1998, but before  
30 January 1, 2001, the following criteria shall be used:

31 (a) An applicant whose family includes one (1)  
32 unemancipated child shall have average family adjusted gross income over the  
33 previous two (2) years not exceeding seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) per  
34 year at the time of application to the program;

35 (b) An applicant whose family includes two (2)  
36 unemancipated children shall have average family adjusted gross income over

the previous two (2) years not exceeding seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) per year at the time of application to the program;

(c) An applicant whose family includes three (3) or more unemancipated children shall have average family adjusted gross income over the previous two (2) years not exceeding eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) per year at the time of application to the program, plus for families with more than three (3) unemancipated children, an additional five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per year for each additional child;

(d) Any applicant whose family includes more than one (1) unemancipated child enrolled full time at an approved institution of higher education shall be entitled to an additional ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) of adjusted gross income for each additional child when the department calculates financial need; and

(e) If the applicant is an adopted child who was at least twelve (12) years of age at the time of adoption and if the applicant's family includes unemancipated adopted children who were at least twelve (12) years of age at the time of adoption, the adoptive family shall be entitled to an additional ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) of adjusted gross income per adopted unemancipated child.

(iii) In calculating financial need for applicants who ~~graduate~~ graduated from an Arkansas high school after December 31, 2000, but before December 31, 2004, the following criteria shall be used:

(a) An applicant whose family includes one (1) unemancipated child shall have average family adjusted gross income over the previous two (2) years not exceeding fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) per year at the time of application to the program;

(b) An applicant whose family includes two (2) unemancipated children shall have average family adjusted gross income over the previous two (2) years not exceeding fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000) per year at the time of application to the program;

(c) An applicant whose family includes three (3) or more unemancipated children shall have average family adjusted gross income over the previous two (2) years not exceeding sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) per year at the time of application to the program, plus for families with more than three (3) unemancipated children, an additional five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per year for each additional child; and

1 (d) Any applicant whose family includes more  
2 than one (1) unemancipated child enrolled full time at an approved  
3 institution of higher education shall be entitled to an additional ten  
4 thousand dollars (\$10,000) of adjusted gross income for each additional child  
5 when the department calculates financial need.

6 (iv) In calculating financial need for applicants  
7 who graduate from an Arkansas high school after December 31, 2004, the  
8 following criteria shall be used:

9 (a) An applicant whose family includes one (1)  
10 unemancipated child shall have average family adjusted gross income over the  
11 previous two (2) years not exceeding seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) per  
12 year at the time of application to the program;

13 (b) An applicant whose family includes two (2)  
14 unemancipated children shall have average family adjusted gross income over  
15 the previous two (2) years not exceeding seventy-five thousand dollars  
16 (\$75,000) per year at the time of application to the program;

17 (c) An applicant whose family includes three  
18 (3) or more unemancipated children shall have average family adjusted gross  
19 income over the previous two (2) years not exceeding eighty thousand dollars  
20 (\$80,000) per year at the time of application to the program, plus for  
21 families with more than three (3) unemancipated children, an additional five  
22 thousand dollars (\$5,000) per year for each additional child; and

23 (d) Any applicant whose family includes more  
24 than one (1) unemancipated child enrolled full time at an approved  
25 institution of higher education shall be entitled to an additional ten  
26 thousand dollars (\$10,000) of adjusted gross income for each additional child  
27 when the department calculates financial need.