

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 85th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2005  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 940

5 By: Senators J. Jeffress, Argue  
6 By: Representative Mahony  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

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9  
10 AN ACT TO AMEND THE FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY  
11 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE  
12 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
13

## Subtitle

14  
15 AN ACT TO AMEND THE FINANCIAL  
16 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE  
17 ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP  
18 PROGRAM.  
19  
20

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1002 is amended to read as follows:  
24 6-82-1002. Definitions.

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

27 (1)(A) "Approved institution" means a public or private college,  
28 university, or nursing school located in Arkansas that is approved by the  
29 Arkansas State Board of Nursing and only under the conditions set forth in §  
30 6-82-1007 or accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education  
31 of the North Central Association or that certifies to the Department of  
32 Higher Education that its students are accepted for transfer at institutions  
33 accredited by the commission.

34 (B) Furthermore, an approved institution shall not  
35 discriminate against applicants, students, or employees on the basis of race,  
36 color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin, consistent with



1 the provisions of applicable state and federal law;

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

6 (3) "Financial need" means the family income of program  
7 applicants as determined by the Department of Higher Education through  
8 evaluation of program applications and supporting documentation;

9 (4)(A) "Full-time undergraduate student" means a resident of  
10 Arkansas who attends an approved institution of higher education and who is  
11 enrolled for at least twelve (12) credit hours the first semester and fifteen  
12 (15) hours thereafter or the equivalent, as defined by the Department of  
13 Higher Education, in a program of study that leads to or is creditable toward  
14 a baccalaureate degree, an associate degree in nursing, or a nursing school  
15 diploma+.

16 (B) A recipient receiving an Arkansas Academic Challenge  
17 Scholarship for the eighth semester shall not be required to be enrolled in  
18 fifteen (15) hours and shall be considered a "full-time undergraduate  
19 student" if the recipient is enrolled in the appropriate number of course  
20 credit hours to earn a degree at the end of that semester.

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

23 (6) "Tuition" means charges levied for attendance at an eligible  
24 institution of higher education, including mandatory fees charged to all  
25 full-time students by an approved institution; and

26 (7) "Unemancipated child" or "unemancipated children" means a  
27 dependent child or dependent children as defined by the United States  
28 Department of Education for student aid purposes.

29  
30 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1005(b)(6)(D), concerning the Arkansas  
31 Academic Challenge Scholarship Program is amended to read as follows:

32 (D)(i) The applicant demonstrates financial need as  
33 defined by the department.

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

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

5 (b) An applicant whose family includes two (2)  
6 unemancipated children shall have average family adjusted gross income over  
7 the previous two (2) years not exceeding seventy-five thousand dollars  
8 (\$75,000) per year at the time of application to the program;

9 (c) An applicant whose family includes three  
10 (3) or more unemancipated children shall have average family adjusted gross  
11 income over the previous two (2) years not exceeding eighty thousand dollars  
12 (\$80,000) per year at the time of application to the program, plus for  
13 families with more than three (3) unemancipated children, an additional five  
14 thousand dollars (\$5,000) per year for each additional child;

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

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

26 (iii) In calculating financial need for applicants  
27 who graduate from an Arkansas high school after December 31, 2000, but before  
28 December 31, 2005, the following criteria shall be used:

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

33 (b) An applicant whose family includes two (2)  
34 unemancipated children shall have average family adjusted gross income over  
35 the previous two (2) years not exceeding fifty-five thousand dollars  
36 (\$55,000) per year at the time of application to the program;

1 (c) An applicant whose family includes three  
2 (3) or more unemancipated children shall have average family adjusted gross  
3 income over the previous two (2) years not exceeding sixty thousand dollars  
4 (\$60,000) per year at the time of application to the program, plus for  
5 families with more than three (3) unemancipated children, an additional five  
6 thousand dollars (\$5,000) per year for each additional child; and

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

12 (iv) In calculating financial need for applicants  
13 who graduate from an Arkansas high school after December 31, 2005, a Free  
14 Application for Federal Student Aid or a subsequent application required by  
15 the United States Department of Education for federal financial aid shall be  
16 filed by the applicant and the following criteria shall be used:

17 (a) An applicant whose family includes one (1)  
18 unemancipated child shall have average family adjusted gross income not  
19 exceeding sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) per year at the time of  
20 application to the program;

21 (b) An applicant whose family includes two (2)  
22 unemancipated children shall have average family adjusted gross income not  
23 exceeding sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000) per year at the time of  
24 application to the program;

25 (c) An applicant whose family includes three  
26 (3) or more unemancipated children shall have average family adjusted gross  
27 income not exceeding seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) per year at the time  
28 of application to the program, plus for families with more than three (3)  
29 unemancipated children, an additional five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per year  
30 for each additional child; and

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

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