

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

As Engrossed: S3/23/05 S3/28/05

A Bill

SENATE BILL 940

5 By: Senators J. Jeffress, Argue
6 By: Representatives Burris, Kenney, Rainey, Mahony, Saunders
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

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9
10 AN ACT TO AMEND THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR
11 THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP
12 PROGRAM; AND TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF THE AWARD;
13 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

15 AN ACT TO AMEND THE ELIGIBILITY
16 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC
17 CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND TO
18 INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF THE AWARD; AND
19 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1002 is amended to read as follows:
26 6-82-1002. Definitions.

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

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

36 ~~(B) Furthermore, 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~~ public-supported or private, non-profit postsecondary institution with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that is eligible to receive Title IV Federal student aid funds or any nursing school with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that is eligible to participate in Title IV Federal student aid programs and has been approved by the Department of Higher Education as eligible to participate in the Academic Challenge Scholarship Program;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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2 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1005(b)(6)(D)(iii), concerning
3 eligibility for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is
4 amended to read as follows:

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

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

12 (b) An applicant whose family includes two (2)
13 unemancipated children shall have average family adjusted gross income over
14 the previous two (2) years not exceeding fifty-five thousand dollars
15 (\$55,000) per year at the time of application to the program;

16 (c) An applicant whose family includes three
17 (3) or more unemancipated children shall have average family adjusted gross
18 income over the previous two (2) years not exceeding sixty thousand dollars
19 (\$60,000) per year at the time of application to the program, plus for
20 families with more than three (3) unemancipated children, an additional five
21 thousand dollars (\$5,000) per year for each additional child; and

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

28
29 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1005(b)(6)(D), concerning eligibility
30 for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to add an
31 additional subdivision to read as follows:

32 (iv) In calculating financial need for applicants
33 who graduate from an Arkansas high school after December 31, 2004, a Free
34 Application for Federal Student Aid or a subsequent application required by
35 the United States Department of Education for federal financial aid shall be
36 filed by the applicant or other proof of family income as defined by the

1 Department of Higher Education and the following criteria shall be used:

2 (a) An applicant whose family includes one (1)
 3 unemancipated child shall have average family adjusted gross income over the
 4 previous two (2) years not exceeding sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) per
 5 year at the time of application to the program;

6 (b) An applicant whose family includes two (2)
 7 unemancipated children shall have average family adjusted gross income over
 8 the previous two (2) years not exceeding sixty-five thousand dollars
 9 (\$65,000) per year at the time of application to the program;

10 (c) An applicant whose family includes three
 11 (3) or more unemancipated children shall have average family adjusted gross
 12 income over the previous two (2) years not exceeding seventy thousand dollars
 13 (\$70,000) per year at the time of application to the program, plus for
 14 families with more than three (3) unemancipated children, an additional five
 15 thousand dollars (\$5,000) per year for each additional child; and

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

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 23 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1006(c)(4), concerning the amount of
 24 the Academic Challenge Scholarship award, is amended to read as follows:

25 (4) ~~For~~ Beginning with awards made for the 2005-2006 academic
 26 year for recipients who graduated from high school after December 31, 2001,
 27 the amount of the annual scholarship awarded to each recipient shall be
 28 graduated as follows:

29 (A) A recipient in his or her freshman year shall be
 30 awarded an amount not to exceed ~~two thousand dollars (\$2,000)~~ two thousand
 31 five hundred dollars (\$2,500);

32 (B) A recipient in his or her sophomore year shall be
 33 awarded an amount not to exceed ~~two thousand two hundred fifty dollars~~
 34 ~~(\$2,250)~~ two thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$2,750);

35 (C) A recipient in his or her junior year shall be awarded
 36 an amount not to exceed ~~two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500)~~ three

1 thousand dollars (\$3,000); and

2 (D) A recipient in his or her senior year shall be awarded
3 an amount not to exceed ~~three thousand dollars (\$3,000)~~ three thousand five
4 hundred dollars (\$3,500).

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6 SECTION 5. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
7 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the financial eligibility
8 requirements for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program must be
9 clarified; that clarification of the eligibility requirements for financial
10 need will help more Arkansas students enter and complete their post-secondary
11 education; and that this act is immediately necessary to prevent student
12 hardships and provide stability for the 2005-2006 school year. Therefore, an
13 emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for
14 the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become
15 effective on:

16 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

17 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
18 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
19 bill; or

20 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
21 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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23 /s/ J. Jeffress
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