

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 86th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2007  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1430

5 By: Representative Blount  
6 By: Senator Brown  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE EARLY LITERACY SKILLS OF  
11 ARKANSAS CHILDREN BY CREATING A LITERACY SKILLS  
12 COMPONENT TO THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE  
13 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
14

## Subtitle

16 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE EARLY LITERACY  
17 SKILLS OF ARKANSAS CHILDREN BY CREATING  
18 A LITERACY SKILLS COMPONENT TO THE  
19 ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP  
20 PROGRAM.  
21  
22

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
24

### SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND FINDINGS.

26 (a) The purpose of this act is to prevent or minimize the continued  
27 early reading failure of Arkansas children and to reduce the long-term effect  
28 of inadequate literacy skills on the performance of Arkansas children as a  
29 group and on their economic future.

30 (b) The General Assembly finds that:

31 (1) Available well-trained tutors can help improve literacy  
32 skills in young students, create a more favorable atmosphere for learning,  
33 provide more time on task, increase opportunities to read, provide immediate,  
34 positive and corrective feedback to help the young student stay on track, and  
35 help close achievement gaps early; and

36 (2) Creating a literacy skills component to the Arkansas



1 Academic Challenge Scholarship Program will help advance academic performance  
2 in both the Arkansas Academic Challenge scholar and the younger student who  
3 receives tutoring from the scholar.

4  
5 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1005, concerning eligibility for the  
6 Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to add an  
7 additional subsection to read as follows:

8 (e) As a condition to receiving the Arkansas Academic Challenge  
9 Scholarship, an applicant shall:

10 (1) Agree to complete the sixty (60) hours of training in  
11 literacy and college readiness skills as set forth in § 6-82-1006(d); and

12 (2) Agree that for each year the scholarship is awarded and upon  
13 completion of the scholarship training, he or she will volunteer to serve as  
14 a literacy tutor for a minimum of thirty (30) hours each semester in a public  
15 school or a faith-based educational institution serving students in  
16 prekindergarten through grade four (Pre-K-4).

17  
18 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1006, concerning the duration and  
19 amount of the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship, is amended to add an  
20 additional subsection to read as follows:

21 (d) A recipient shall receive sixty (60) hours of training in literacy  
22 and college readiness skills from an accredited Arkansas institution of  
23 higher education.

24  
25 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1004, concerning the authority of the  
26 Department of Higher Education for the Arkansas Academic Challenge  
27 Scholarship Program, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as  
28 follows:

29 (h) The Department of Higher Education shall report to the General  
30 Assembly annually regarding the implementation of the provisions of this  
31 subchapter.