

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1487

4
5 By: Representatives Blount, E. Brown, Cash, Davis, George, House, D. Hutchinson, J. Johnson, W.
6 Lewellen, Medley, Pennartz, Pyle, Rainey, J. Roebuck, L. Smith, Webb
7 By: Senator Brown

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9
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

15
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.
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23
24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND FINDINGS.

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

(b) The General Assembly finds that:

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



1 (2) Creating a literacy skills component to the Arkansas
2 Academic Challenge Scholarship Program will help advance academic performance
3 in both the Arkansas Academic Challenge scholar and the younger student who
4 receives tutoring from the scholar.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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