

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

As Engrossed: H2/16/07

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1487

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
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For An Act To Be Entitled

11 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE EARLY LITERACY SKILLS OF
12 ARKANSAS CHILDREN BY CREATING A LITERACY SKILLS
13 COMPONENT TO THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE
14 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
15

Subtitle

17 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE EARLY LITERACY
18 SKILLS OF ARKANSAS CHILDREN BY CREATING
19 A LITERACY SKILLS COMPONENT TO THE
20 ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP
21 PROGRAM.
22
23

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
25

SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND FINDINGS.

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:

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.

5
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 an additional component to the Arkansas Academic Challenge
10 Scholarship:

11 (1) Each applicant for the scholarship shall agree that for each
12 year the scholarship is awarded he or she may volunteer to serve as a
13 literacy tutor for a minimum of twenty (20) clock hours each semester in a
14 public school or a faith-based educational institution serving students in
15 prekindergarten through grade six (Pre-K-6);

16 (2) A recipient who agrees to volunteer as a literacy tutor:

17 (A) Shall complete the prerequisite training in literacy
18 and college readiness skills provided under § 6-82-1006(d) before he or she
19 begins tutoring; and

20 (B) May receive college credit for the tutoring as
21 determined by the institution of higher education awarding the scholarship;
22 and

23 (3) An enrolled college student who participates in the tutorial
24 program and fails to meet the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship
25 academic eligibility requirement for one (1) semester shall be given a one
26 (1) semester probation opportunity to continue his or her education and
27 improve academic performance prior to losing scholarship funding in the
28 subsequent semester.

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

33 (d) A recipient who agrees to volunteer as a literacy tutor under § 6-
34 82-1005(e) shall receive the prerequisite training in literacy and college
35 readiness from an accredited Arkansas institution of higher education.

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

5 (h) The Department of Higher Education shall report to the General
6 Assembly annually regarding the implementation of the provisions of this
7 subchapter.

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/s/ Blount, et al