

1 State of Arkansas  
2 86th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2007

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 203

4  
5 By: Senator Madison  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO REPEAL THE REQUIREMENT THAT COLLEGE  
10 JUNIORS TAKE THE COLLEGIATE ASSESSMENT OF  
11 ACADEMIC PROFICIENCY EXAM, THE "RISING JUNIOR  
12 EXAM"; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
13

## Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO REPEAL THE RISING JUNIOR EXAM.  
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-61-114 is repealed.

21 ~~6-61-114. Standardized rising junior test—Annual report.~~

22 ~~(a)(1) Until such time as the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating~~  
23 ~~Board approves other assessment processes or exams to be used by Arkansas~~  
24 ~~colleges and universities, the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency~~  
25 ~~Exam, known as the "rising junior exam", shall be the required exam to be~~  
26 ~~taken by all Arkansas public college and university students at the end of~~  
27 ~~the sophomore year to evaluate student learning in the general education~~  
28 ~~curriculum established under § 6-61-218, the results of which shall be~~  
29 ~~evaluated in light of each institution's mission and goals.~~

30 ~~(2)(A) On or before the October 2001 meeting of the board, the~~  
31 ~~Department of Higher Education shall recommend to the board criteria and~~  
32 ~~guidelines to use when considering the adequacy of other assessment processes~~  
33 ~~or exams proposed for use at Arkansas public colleges and universities in~~  
34 ~~lieu of the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency Exam.~~

35 ~~(B) The criteria and guidelines proposed by the department~~  
36 ~~shall be developed in consultation with the Executive Council of the~~



1 ~~Presidents Council.~~

2 ~~(3) After receiving the recommendation of the department, the~~  
 3 ~~board shall promulgate rules and set guidelines for approving alternative~~  
 4 ~~processes or exams for use by Arkansas public colleges and universities in~~  
 5 ~~lieu of the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency Exam and shall~~  
 6 ~~provide the guidelines to the Arkansas public colleges and universities.~~

7 ~~(4) After the board has adopted rules and guidelines, public~~  
 8 ~~colleges and universities may request approval of other assessment processes~~  
 9 ~~or exams to be taken by that institution's students or used by the~~  
 10 ~~institution at the end of the sophomore year to evaluate student learning in~~  
 11 ~~the general education curriculum established under § 6-61-218, the results of~~  
 12 ~~which shall be evaluated in light of each institution's mission and goals.~~

13 ~~(b) Except as provided in subsection (a) of this section, the "rising~~  
 14 ~~junior test" shall be given annually by all public colleges and universities~~  
 15 ~~in Arkansas, with the first statewide administration to take place by the end~~  
 16 ~~of the 1994-1995 academic year.~~

17 ~~(c) The board, after consultation with the public colleges and~~  
 18 ~~universities, is hereby authorized to adopt policies and procedures to~~  
 19 ~~implement this section.~~

20 ~~(d) These policies and procedures shall be implemented by the public~~  
 21 ~~colleges and universities as a condition of receiving state funds.~~

22 ~~(e)(1) The board shall report the statewide test results on an annual~~  
 23 ~~basis to the House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate Interim~~  
 24 ~~Committee on Education.~~

25 ~~(2) The board shall provide a status report regarding approval~~  
 26 ~~of alternative processes or exams as set forth in subsection (a) of this~~  
 27 ~~section to the House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate Interim~~  
 28 ~~Committee on Education on or before December 31, 2002.~~

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 30 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-82-311(c), concerning the Arkansas  
 31 Governor's Scholarship and the Arkansas Governor's Distinguished Scholarship,  
 32 is amended to read as follows:

33 (c) Provided sufficient funds are available, a scholarship shall be  
 34 awarded for one (1) academic year and renewed annually for three (3)  
 35 additional academic years if the following conditions for renewal are met:

36 (1) The student maintains not less than a 3.0 grade point

1 average on a 4.0 scholastic grading scale;

2 (2) A student receiving the additional scholarship under § 6-82-  
3 312(b) maintains not less than a 3.25 grade point average on a 4.0 scholastic  
4 grading scale;

5 (3) The recipient has completed a total of at least twenty-seven  
6 (27) hours during the first full academic year and, if applicable, a total of  
7 at least thirty (30) hours per academic year thereafter; and

8 ~~(4) If the student is entering the junior year, the student has~~  
9 ~~taken the standardized rising junior test provided for in § 6-61-114; and~~

10 ~~(5)~~ The recipient has met any other continuing eligibility  
11 criteria established by the Department of Higher Education.

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13 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-82-1006(b), concerning the Arkansas  
14 Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to read as follows:

15 (b) A recipient who graduated from high school after December 31,  
16 2000, shall receive a scholarship for one (1) academic year renewable for up  
17 to three (3) additional academic years if the recipient meets the following  
18 continuing eligibility criteria:

19 (1) The recipient earns a cumulative grade point average of 2.75  
20 or above on a 4.0 scale at an approved institution;

21 (2) The recipient has completed a total of at least twenty-seven  
22 (27) hours during the first full academic year and a total of at least thirty  
23 (30) hours per academic year thereafter; and

24 ~~(3) If the student is entering the junior year, the student has~~  
25 ~~taken the standardized rising junior test provided for in § 6-61-114; and~~

26 ~~(4)~~ The recipient meets any other continuing eligibility  
27 criteria established by the department.