1 State of Arkansas

A Bill

2 86th General Assembly

3 Regular Session, 2007   SENATE BILL 837

4

5 By: Senators Argue, Baker

6 By: Representative Kenney

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9   **For An Act To Be Entitled**

10   AN ACT TO PROVIDE UP TO TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE

11   (275) ARKANSAS GOVERNOR'S DISTINGUISHED

12   SCHOLARSHIPS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

13

14   **Subtitle**

15   TO PROVIDE UP TO TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-

16   FIVE (275) ARKANSAS GOVERNOR'S

17   DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIPS.

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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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22   SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-82-308 is amended to read as follows:

23   6-82-308. Number and geographic distribution of scholarships.

24   (a) If sufficient funds are available, effective for students

25 receiving their initial awards beginning in fall 2005 2007, the number of

26 initial scholarship awards to eligible high achievers shall not exceed three

27 hundred twenty-five (325) three hundred fifty (350) each year, to be

28 distributed as follows;

29   (1) Up to two hundred fifty (250) two hundred seventy-five (275)

30 Arkansas Governor's Distinguished Scholarships; and

31   (2)(A) Seventy-five (75) Arkansas Governor's Scholarships at

32 four thousand dollars ($4,000) per year.

33   (B) The seventy-five (75) Arkansas Governor's Scholarships

34 shall be awarded to one (1) student in each of the seventy-five (75) counties

35 in Arkansas.

36   (b)(1) Effective for students receiving their initial awards beginning

1 ~~in fall 2004, up to two hundred fifty (250) initial Arkansas Governor's~~

2 ~~Distinguished Scholarship awards and twenty-five (25) initial Arkansas~~

3 ~~Governor's Scholarship awards may be provided if, at the end of the calendar~~

4 ~~year 2001 and each year thereafter, the Department of Higher Education can~~

5 ~~demonstrate, based on economic projections and revenue forecasts relative to~~

6 ~~the number of Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship recipients then~~

7 ~~receiving the scholarship, that sufficient funds are available for that~~

8 ~~purpose.~~

9 ~~(2)~~(b)(1) A report ~~of the same~~ that demonstrates based on economic

10 projections and revenue forecasts that sufficient funds are available to

11 award scholarships to high achievers relative to the number of Academic

12 Challenge Scholarship recipients shall be submitted to the House Interim

13 Committee on Education, ~~and~~ the Senate Interim Committee on Education, and

14 the Legislative Council for review prior to obligating the funds.

15 ~~(3)~~(2) Should a shortfall of funds be projected, the ~~department~~

16 Department of Higher Education shall promulgate ~~regulations~~ rules for the

17 priority funding of these scholarships and submit these proposed ~~regulations~~

18 rules to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board for a public

19 hearing and to the ~~Legislative Council through its~~ Subcommittee on

20 Administrative Rules and Regulations ~~Subcommittee~~ of the Legislative Council

21 for review before implementing the ~~regulations~~ rules.

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23 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the

24 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that new scholarships under the

25 Arkansas Governor's scholarship program need to be awarded to students

26 graduating in May of 2007; that the Department of Higher Education needs

27 sufficient time to solicit and receive scholarship applications; and that

28 this act is immediately necessary to ensure the proper administration of the

29 scholarship program. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this

30 act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and

31 safety shall become effective on:

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

33 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,

34 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the

35 bill; or

36 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is

1   <u>overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.</u>

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