

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 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 856

5 By: Senators Broadway, Salmon, Bookout
6 By: Representatives J. Roebuck, Abernathy, M. Burris
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY FOR THE ARKANSAS
11 DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN GOVERNOR'S
12 SCHOLARS PROGRAM AWARDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
13

Subtitle

14 TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY FOR THE ARKANSAS
15 DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN
16 GOVERNOR'S SCHOLARS PROGRAM AWARDS.
17
18
19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
21

22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-82-302(5) concerning the definition of
23 "eligible student" is amended to read as follows:

24 (5) "Eligible student" means a resident of the State of Arkansas
25 as defined by the Department of Higher Education who:

26 (A) ~~is~~ Is eligible for admission as a full-time student;

27 ~~and~~ (B) ~~who declares~~ Declares an intent to matriculate in an
28 approved institution in Arkansas; and

29 (C) Graduates from a high school in this state;
30

31 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-82-304(7) concerning the Arkansas
32 Governor's Scholars Program is amended to read as follows:

33 (7) Determine the necessary procedures for the awarding of
34 scholarships ~~should~~ if the number of eligible applicants ~~exceed~~ exceeds the
35 available funds ~~available~~ or available awards.
36



1 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-82-306(b) concerning eligibility for the
 2 Arkansas Governor’s Scholars Program is amended to read as follows:

3 (b) A student is eligible for this scholarship if he or she:

4 (1) ~~The individual has met~~ Meets the admission requirements and
 5 is accepted for enrollment as a full-time undergraduate student in an
 6 eligible public or private college or university in Arkansas;

7 (2)(A) ~~The individual is~~ Is a bona fide resident of the state,
 8 as defined by the ~~department~~ Department of Higher Education.

9 (B) Preference will be given to students who plan to enter
 10 college at the beginning of the academic year directly following their last
 11 year of high school attendance;

12 (3) ~~The individual is~~ Is a citizen of the United States or a
 13 permanent resident alien;

14 (4) Graduates from a high school in this state;

15 ~~(4)(5)(A) The applicant has demonstrated~~ Demonstrates
 16 proficiency in the application of knowledge and skills in reading and writing
 17 literacy and mathematics by passing the end-of-course examination as may be
 18 developed by the Department of Education, and as may be designated by the
 19 Department of Higher Education for this purpose.

20 (B) “End-of-course” examination ~~shall mean~~ means those
 21 examinations defined in § 6-15-419(9); and

22 ~~(5)(6)(A) The individual satisfactorily meets~~ Satisfies the
 23 qualifications of superior academic ability as established by the Department
 24 of Higher Education with ~~such~~ criteria consisting of value points for
 25 academic achievement and leadership, including, ~~but not limited to~~ without
 26 limitation:

27 (i) American College Test (ACT) or Scholastic
 28 Aptitude Test (SAT) score, National Merit Finalist, or National Achievement
 29 Finalist;

30 (ii) High school grade point average;

31 (iii) Rank in high school class; and

32 (iv) Leadership in school, community, and
 33 employment.

34 (B) The Department of Higher Education ~~shall have the~~
 35 ~~authority to~~ may alter the weight assigned to the individual criterion to
 36 more appropriately meet the needs of the state as determined by the Arkansas

1 Higher Education Coordinating Board.

2
 3 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-82-308(b), concerning the distribution
 4 of scholarships, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as
 5 follows:

6 (3) If there are more eligible applicants than available
 7 scholarships, the department may determine a procedure for awarding
 8 additional scholarships while not exceeding available funds.

9
 10 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-82-311(c)(3) concerning the term, renewal
 11 and allocation of scholarships is amended to read as follows:

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

16
 17 SECTION 6. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
 18 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that new scholarships under the
 19 Arkansas Governor’s Scholars Program need to be awarded to students
 20 graduating high school in May of 2009; that the Department of Higher
 21 Education needs sufficient time to solicit and receive scholarship
 22 applications; and that this act is necessary for the proper administration of
 23 the Arkansas Governor’s Scholars Program. Therefore, an emergency is declared
 24 to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the
 25 public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

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

27 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
 28 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
 29 bill; or

30 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
 31 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.