

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

As Engrossed: S3/10/09

A Bill

SENATE BILL 856

5 By: Senators Broadway, Salmon, Bookout
6 By: Representatives J. Roebuck, Abernathy, M. Burris
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8

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.
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19

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

30 (i) A high school in this state, for Arkansas
31 Governor's Scholars; or

32 (ii) A high school, for Arkansas Governor's
33 Distinguished Scholars;
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35 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-82-304(7) concerning the Arkansas
36 Governor's Scholars Program is amended to read as follows:



1 (7) Determine the necessary procedures for the awarding of
 2 scholarships ~~should if~~ the number of eligible applicants ~~exceed~~ exceeds the
 3 available funds ~~available~~ or available awards.

4
 5 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-82-306(b) concerning eligibility for the
 6 Arkansas Governor's Scholars Program is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

18 (4) Graduates from:

19 (A) A high school in this state, for Arkansas Governor's
 20 Scholars; or

21 (B) A high school, for Arkansas Governor's Distinguished
 22 Scholars;

23 ~~(4)(5)(A) The applicant has demonstrated~~ Demonstrates
 24 proficiency in the application of knowledge and skills in reading and writing
 25 literacy and mathematics by passing the end-of-course examination as may be
 26 developed by the Department of Education, and as may be designated by the
 27 Department of Higher Education for this purpose.

28 (B) "End-of-course" examination ~~shall mean~~ means those
 29 examinations defined in § 6-15-419~~(9)~~; and

30 ~~(5)(6)(A) The individual satisfactorily meets~~ Satisfies the
 31 qualifications of superior academic ability as established by the Department
 32 of Higher Education with ~~such~~ criteria consisting of value points for
 33 academic achievement and leadership, including, ~~but not limited to~~ without
 34 limitation:

35 (i) American College Test (ACT) or Scholastic
 36 Aptitude Test (SAT) score, National Merit Finalist, or National Achievement

1 Finalist;

2 (ii) High school grade point average;

3 (iii) Rank in high school class; and

4 (iv) Leadership in school, community, and

5 employment.

6 (B) The Department of Higher Education ~~shall have the~~
7 ~~authority to~~ may alter the weight assigned to the individual criterion to
8 more appropriately meet the needs of the state as determined by the Arkansas
9 Higher Education Coordinating Board.

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

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

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

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

24

25 SECTION 6. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
26 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that new scholarships under the
27 Arkansas Governor's Scholars Program need to be awarded to students
28 graduating high school in May of 2009; that the Department of Higher
29 Education needs sufficient time to solicit and receive scholarship
30 applications; and that this act is necessary for the proper administration of
31 the Arkansas Governor's Scholars Program. Therefore, an emergency is declared
32 to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the
33 public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

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

35 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
36 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the

1 bill; or

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

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5 */s/ Broadway*

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