1	State of Arkansas	As Engrossed: H3/18/11 H3/29/11 A Bill	
2	88th General Assembly	A DIII	
3	Regular Session, 2011		HOUSE BILL 1771
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5	By: Representatives Collins, D.	Altes	
6 7		For An Act To Be Entitled	
7 8	ΔΝ ΔΩΤ ΤΩ Ρ	ROVIDE KINDERGARTEN THROUGH TWE	TETTH CRADE
9		LARSHIPS TO ECONOMICALLY DISADV	
10		PROVIDING A TAX CREDIT FOR CON	
11		DONORS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO NON	
12		-FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS; AND FOR	
13	PURPOSES.		
14			
15			
16		Subtitle	
17	TO PRO	OVIDE K-12 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR	
18	ECONOM	MICALLY DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN	
19	THROUG	GH A CORPORATE INCOME TAX CREDI	Τ.
20			
21			
22	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GEN	NERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF	ARKANSAS:
23			
24	SECTION 1. Arkans	sas Code Title 26, Chapter 51,	Subchapter 5 is amended
25	to add a new section to	read as follows:	
26	<u>26-51-515. Credit</u>	ts for contributions to nonprof	it scholarship-funding
27	organizations.		
28	<u>(a) The purpose of </u>	of this section is to:	
29	<u>(1)</u> Encoura	age private, voluntary contribu	itions to eligible
30	<u>nonprofit scholarship-fu</u>	unding organizations;	
31	(2) Expand	educational opportunities for	<u>children of families</u>
32	that have limited finance	cial resources; and	
33		children in this state to achi	eve a greater level of
34	excellence in their educ		
35	<u>(b) As used in th</u>		
36	<u>(1)(A) "Eli</u>	<u>igible contribution" means a mo</u>	<u>onetary contribution</u>



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1	from an eligible taxpayer or corporation, subject to the restrictions
2	provided in this section, to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
3	organization.
4	(B) The eligible taxpayer making the eligible contribution
5	may not designate a specific child as the beneficiary of the contribution;
6	(2) "Eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization" means
7	a charitable organization that:
8	(A) Is exempt from federal income tax under 26 U.S.C. §
9	501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as in effect on January 1, 2011;
10	(B) Is an Arkansas entity formed under § 4-28-101 et seq.
11	and whose principal office is located in the state; and
12	(C) Complies with subsection (f) of this section;
13	(3) "Eligible private school" means a nonpublic school that:
14	(A) Provides education to elementary or secondary students
15	and has notified the department of its intention to participate and comply
16	with the program's requirements;
17	(B) Is located in Arkansas; and
18	(C) Is not a home school;
19	(4) "Eligible taxpayer" means a business or individual,
20	including without limitation a corporation, partnership, limited liability
21	company, sole proprietorship; and
22	(5) "Owner" or "operator" means:
23	(A) An owner, president, officer, or director of an
24	eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization or a person with
25	equivalent decision making authority over an eligible nonprofit scholarship-
26	funding organization; or
27	(B) An owner, operator, superintendent, or principal of an
28	eligible private school or a person with equivalent decision making authority
29	over an eligible private school.
30	(c)(1) Except as limited in <i>subsection (e)</i> of this section, there is
31	allowed an income tax credit against the income tax imposed by the Income Tax
32	Act of 1929, § 26-51-101 et seq., the premium tax imposed by § 23-75-119, or
33	the premium tax imposed by § 23-63-1614 for one hundred percent (100%) of an
34	eligible contribution made by the eligible taxpayer for a tax year.
35	<u>(2) An eligible student is a student who:</u>
36	(A) Is a member of a household whose total annual income

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1	the year before he or she receives an educational scholarship under this
2	program does not exceed an amount equal to two hundred percent (200%) of the
3	federal poverty level income standard;
4	(B) Meets requirements to enroll in public school in
5	<u>Arkansas;</u>
6	(C) Received a scholarship from an eligible nonprofit
7	scholarship-funding organization or from the state during the previous school
8	<u>year;</u>
9	(D) Is eligible to enter kindergarten; or
10	(E) Is starting school in Arkansas for the first time.
11	(3) Once a student receives a scholarship under this program,
12	the student will remain eligible regardless of household income until the
13	student graduates from high school or reaches twenty-one (21) years of age.
14	(d) A student is not eligible for a scholarship while he or she is:
15	(1) Receiving a scholarship from another eligible nonprofit
16	scholarship-funding organization under this section;
17	(2) Participating in a home education program as defined in § 6-
18	<u>15-501 et. seq.;</u>
19	(3) Participating in a virtual school, correspondence school, or
20	distance learning program that receives state funding pursuant to the
21	student's participation unless the participation is limited to no more than
22	two courses per school year; or
23	(4) Enrolled in the Arkansas School for the Deaf or the Arkansas
24	School for the Blind.
25	(e)(1) An income tax credit under this section may not exceed fifty
26	percent (50%) of the tax due under this chapter for the taxable year, after
27	the application of any other allowable income tax credits by the eligible
28	taxpayer.
29	(2) An income tax credit under this section shall be reduced by
30	the difference between the amount of federal corporate income tax taking into
31	account the income tax credit under this section and the amount of federal
32	corporate income tax without application of the income tax credit under this
33	section.
34	(3) The total amount of income tax credits and carryforward of
35	income tax credits under this section for each fiscal year under this section

1	expand by no more than ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) each year until it
2	reaches a cap of ninety million dollars (\$90,000,000). Expansion of credit
3	is limited to the amount of revenue necessary to fulfill projected
4	scholarship applications as determined by the eligible nonprofit scholarship-
5	funding organization each year.
6	(4) An eligible taxpayer who files an Arkansas consolidated
7	return as a member of an affiliated group under § 26-51-805 may be allowed
8	the income tax credit under this section on a consolidated return basis
9	subject to the limitation established under subdivisions (e)(1), (2), and (3)
10	of this section.
11	(5)(A) An eligible taxpayer may rescind all or part of the
12	eligible taxpayer's allocated income tax credit under this section.
13	(B) The amount rescinded shall become available for
14	purposes of the cap for the state fiscal year under this section to an
15	eligible taxpayer as approved by the Department of Finance and Administration
16	if the eligible taxpayer receives notice from the Department of Finance and
17	Administration that the rescission has been accepted by the Department of
18	Finance and Administration and the eligible taxpayer has not previously
19	rescinded any or all of the eligible taxpayer's allocated income tax credit
20	under this section more than one (1) time in the previous three (3) tax
21	years.
22	(C) Any amount rescinded under this subdivision (e)(3)
23	shall become available to an eligible taxpayer on a first-come, first-served
24	basis based on income tax credit applications received after the date the
25	rescission is accepted by the Department of Finance and Administration.
26	(f) An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization:
27	(1) Shall comply with the antidiscrimination provisions of 42
28	U.S.C. § 2000d, as in effect on January 1, 2011;
29	(2) Shall comply with the following background check
30	requirements:
31	(A)(i) All owners and operators are, upon employment or
32	engagement to provide services, subject to fingerprinting and a background
33	check successfully completed through the Department of Arkansas State Police
34	and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
35	(ii) The results of the state and national criminal
36	history check shall be provided to the Department of Education for screening.

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1	(iii) The cost of the background check may be paid
2	by the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization or the owner or
3	operator;
4	(B) Every five (5) years following employment or
5	engagement to provide services or association with an eligible nonprofit
6	scholarship-funding organization, each owner or operator must comply with
7	another background check through the Department of Arkansas State Police and
8	the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
9	(C)(i) All fingerprints submitted to the Department of
10	Arkansas State Police as required by this subsection must be retained by the
11	Department of Arkansas State Police in a manner approved by rule and entered
12	in the statewide automated fingerprint identification system.
13	(ii) The fingerprints must be available for all
14	purposes and uses authorized for arrest fingerprint cards entered in the
15	statewide automated fingerprint identification system;
16	(D)(i) Beginning July 1, 2011, the Department of Arkansas
17	State Police shall search all arrest fingerprint cards against the
18	fingerprints retained in the statewide automated fingerprint identification
19	system.
20	(ii) Any arrest record that is identified with an
21	owner's or operator's fingerprints must be reported to the Department of
22	Education.
23	(iii) The Department of Arkansas State Police may
24	(11) The Department of Arkansas State for the may
24	adopt a rule setting the amount of the annual fee to be imposed upon the
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	adopt a rule setting the amount of the annual fee to be imposed upon the
25	adopt a rule setting the amount of the annual fee to be imposed upon the Department of Education for performing the services under this subdivision
25 26	adopt a rule setting the amount of the annual fee to be imposed upon the Department of Education for performing the services under this subdivision (f)(2) and establishing the procedures for the retention of owner and
25 26 27	adopt a rule setting the amount of the annual fee to be imposed upon the Department of Education for performing the services under this subdivision (f)(2) and establishing the procedures for the retention of owner and operator fingerprints and the dissemination of search results.
25 26 27 28	adopt a rule setting the amount of the annual fee to be imposed upon the Department of Education for performing the services under this subdivision (f)(2) and establishing the procedures for the retention of owner and operator fingerprints and the dissemination of search results. (iv) The fee may be paid by the owner or operator of
25 26 27 28 29	adopt a rule setting the amount of the annual fee to be imposed upon the Department of Education for performing the services under this subdivision (f)(2) and establishing the procedures for the retention of owner and operator fingerprints and the dissemination of search results. (iv) The fee may be paid by the owner or operator of the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization;
25 26 27 28 29 30	<pre>adopt a rule setting the amount of the annual fee to be imposed upon the Department of Education for performing the services under this subdivision (f)(2) and establishing the procedures for the retention of owner and operator fingerprints and the dissemination of search results.</pre>
25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<pre>adopt a rule setting the amount of the annual fee to be imposed upon the Department of Education for performing the services under this subdivision (f)(2) and establishing the procedures for the retention of owner and operator fingerprints and the dissemination of search results.</pre>
25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32	<pre>adopt a rule setting the amount of the annual fee to be imposed upon the Department of Education for performing the services under this subdivision (f)(2) and establishing the procedures for the retention of owner and operator fingerprints and the dissemination of search results.</pre>
25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33	<pre>adopt a rule setting the amount of the annual fee to be imposed upon the Department of Education for performing the services under this subdivision (f)(2) and establishing the procedures for the retention of owner and operator fingerprints and the dissemination of search results.</pre>
25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34	<pre>adopt a rule setting the amount of the annual fee to be imposed upon the Department of Education for performing the services under this subdivision (f)(2) and establishing the procedures for the retention of owner and operator fingerprints and the dissemination of search results.</pre>

1	under this section;
2	(3) Shall not have an owner or operator who owns or operates an
3	eligible private school that is participating in a scholarship program
4	operated by an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization;
5	(4)(A) Shall provide scholarships from eligible contributions to
6	eligible students for tuition, textbook expenses, or transportation to an
7	eligible private school.
8	(B) At least <i>ninety percent (90%)</i> of the scholarship
9	funding must be used to pay tuition expenses;
10	(5) Shall give priority to eligible students who previously
11	received a scholarship from an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
12	organization;
13	(6) Shall give priority to the sibling or siblings of a student
14	who has received a scholarship under the tax credit program and is currently
15	enrolled in a private school through the tax credit program;
16	<u>(7) Shall provide a scholarship to an eligible student through a</u>
17	random, anonymous student selection method unless the eligible student
18	qualifies for priority under subdivision (f)(5) or subdivision (f)(6) of this
19	<u>section;</u>
20	<u>(8) May not restrict or reserve scholarships for use at a</u>
21	particular private school or provide scholarships to a child of an owner or
22	operator;
23	(9) Shall allow an eligible student to attend any eligible
24	private school and shall allow a parent of an eligible student to transfer a
25	scholarship during a school year to any other eligible private school of the
26	parent's choice provided that the eligible student was excused by the current
27	private school for illness or other good cause;
28	(10)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (f)(10)(B) of this
29	section, shall obligate, in the same fiscal year in which the eligible
30	contribution was received, one hundred percent (100%) of the eligible
31	contribution to provide annual or partial-year scholarships to eligible
32	private schools.
33	(B) Up to twenty-five percent (25%) of the total eligible
34	contribution may be carried forward for expenditure in the following state
35	<u>fiscal year.</u>
36	(C) An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding

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1	organization, before granting a scholarship for an academic year, shall
2	document each eligible student's scholarship eligibility for that academic
3	year.
4	(D) An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization
5	may not grant multiyear scholarships in one (1) approval process.
6	(E) No more than nine and one-half percent (9 1/2%) of
7	eligible contributions may be used for administrative expenses of the
8	eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization.
9	(F) All interest accrued from eligible contributions shall
10	be used for scholarships;
11	(11) Shall maintain separate accounts for scholarship funds and
12	operating funds;
13	(12)(A) With the prior approval of the Department of Finance and
14	Administration, may transfer funds to another eligible nonprofit scholarship-
15	funding organization if additional funds are required to meet scholarship
16	demand at the receiving eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization.
17	(B) A transfer shall be limited to the greater of five
18	hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) or twenty percent (20%) of the total
19	eligible contributions received by the nonprofit scholarship-funding
20	organization making the transfer.
21	(C) All transferred funds must be deposited by the
22	receiving eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization into its
23	<u>scholarship accounts.</u>
24	(D) All transferred amounts received by any eligible
25	nonprofit scholarship-funding organization must be separately disclosed in
26	the annual financial and compliance audit required in this section;
27	(13)(A) Shall provide to the Department of Finance and
28	Administration an annual financial and compliance audit of its accounts and
29	records conducted by an independent certified public accountant.
30	(B) The audit shall be conducted in compliance with
31	generally accepted auditing standards and shall include a report on financial
32	statements presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting
33	principles set forth by the American Institute of Certified Public
34	Accountants for not-for-profit organizations and a determination of
35	compliance with the statutory eligibility and expenditure requirements set
36	forth in this section.

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1	(C) Audits shall be provided to the Department of <i>Finance</i>
2	and Administration within one hundred eighty (180) days after completion of
3	the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization's fiscal year; and
4	(14) Shall prepare and submit quarterly reports to the
5	Department of Finance and Administration and shall submit in a timely manner
6	any information requested by the Department of Education relating to the
7	scholarship program. This information shall also be made available on the
8	website prepared by the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization.
9	(15) Require an annual notarized, sworn compliance statement by
10	participating eligible private schools certifying compliance with state laws
11	<u>and shall retain such records;</u>
12	(16) Cooperate with the Department of Education to cross-check
13	the list of participating scholarship students with the public school
14	<u>enrollment lists to avoid duplication;</u>
15	(17) Annually verify the eligibility of nonprofit scholarship-
16	funding organizations;
17	(18) Annually verify the eligibility of private schools that
18	meet the requirements of subsection (h) of this section;
19	(19) Establish a website that provides parents and private
20	schools with information on participation in the scholarship program;
21	(20)(A) Establish a process by which individuals may notify the
22	eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization of any violation by a
23	parent, eligible private school, or school district of state laws relating to
24	program participation.
25	(B)(i) The eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
26	organization shall conduct an inquiry of any written complaint of a violation
27	of this section or make a referral to the appropriate agency for an
28	investigation, if the complaint is signed by the complainant and is legally
29	sufficient.
30	(ii) A complaint is legally sufficient if it
31	contains ultimate facts that show a violation of this section.
32	(iii) In order to determine legal sufficiency, the
33	eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization may require supporting
34	information or documentation from the complainant;
35	(21)(A)(i) Conduct random site visits to eligible private
36	schools participating in the corporate tax credit scholarship program.

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1	(ii) The purpose of the site visits is solely to
2	verify the information reported by the eligible private schools concerning
3	the enrollment and attendance of students, background screening of teachers,
4	and teachers' fingerprinting results.
5	(iii) The eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
6	organization may not make more than seven (7) random site visits each year
7	and may not make more than one (1) random site visit each year to the same
8	eligible private school.
9	(B) Annually by December 15, report to the Governor, the
10	President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
11	Representatives the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization's
12	actions with respect to implementing accountability in the scholarship
13	program under this section any substantiated allegations or violations of law
14	or rule by an eligible private school under this program concerning the
15	enrollment and attendance of students, background screening of teachers, and
16	teachers' fingerprinting results, and the corrective action taken by the
17	eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization;
18	(22)(A)(i) The owner or operator shall deny, suspend, or revoke
19	an eligible private school's participation in the scholarship program if it
20	is determined that the eligible private school has failed to comply with this
21	section.
22	(ii) In instances in which the noncompliance is
23	correctable within a reasonable amount of time and in which the health,
24	safety, or welfare of the students is not threatened, the owner or operator
25	may issue a notice of noncompliance that shall provide the eligible private
26	school with a timeframe within which to provide evidence of compliance before
27	taking action to suspend or revoke the eligible private school's
28	participation in the scholarship program.
29	(B) The owner's or operator's determination is subject to
30	<u>the following:</u>
31	(i) If the owner or operator intends to deny,
32	suspend, or revoke an eligible private school's participation in the
33	scholarship program, the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization
34	shall notify the eligible private school of such proposed action in writing
35	by certified mail and regular mail to the eligible private school's address
36	of record with the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization. The

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the timelines and procedures set forth in this subdivision (i)(2); and (11) The eligible private school that is adversely effected by the proposed action shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Department of Finance and Administration. (11) The eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization may immediately suspend payment of scholarship-funding organization may immediately suspend payment of scholarship funds if it is determined that there is probable cause to believe that there is: 9 (i) An imminent threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the students; or 11 (ii) Fraudulent activity on the part of the eligible private school. 13 (D) In incidents of alleged fraudulent activity, the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization may release personally identifiable records or reports of students to the following persons or 10 organizations: 11 (1) A court of competent iurisdiction in compliance 18 with an order of that court or the attorney of record in accordance with a 19 lawfully issued subpoena, consistent with the Family Educational Rights and 11 (11) A person or entity authorized by a court of 12 competent jurisdiction in compliance with an order of th	1	notification shall include the reasons for the proposed action and notice of
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34 <u>organization order suspending payment under this subsection may be appealed</u>	32	<u>January 1, 2011.</u>
	33	(E) The eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
	34	organization order suspending payment under this subsection may be appealed
35 <u>to the Department of Finance and Administration;</u>	35	to the Department of Finance and Administration;
36 (23) Identify and select the nationally norm-referenced tests	36	(23) Identify and select the nationally norm-referenced tests

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1	that are comparable to the norm-referenced provisions of the Arkansas
2	Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program provided that
3	the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program
4	assessments may be one (1) of the tests selected; and
5	(24)(A) Select an independent research organization, which may
6	be a public or private entity or university, to which participating eligible
7	private schools shall report the scores of participating students on the
8	nationally norm-referenced tests administered by the eligible private school.
9	(B) The independent research organization shall report
10	annually to the Department of Education on the year-to-year improvements of
11	participating students.
12	(C) The independent research organization shall analyze
13	and report student performance data in a manner that protects the rights of
14	students and parents as mandated in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy
15	Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232(g), as in effect on January 1, 2011, and shall not
16	disaggregate data to a level that will disclose the academic level of
17	individual students or of individual schools.
18	(D) To the extent possible, the independent research
19	organization shall accumulate historical performance data on students from
20	the Department of Education and private schools to describe baseline
21	performance and to conduct longitudinal studies.
22	(E) To minimize costs and reduce time required for third-
23	party analysis and evaluation, the Department of Education shall conduct
24	analyses of matched students from public school assessment data and calculate
25	control group learning gains using an agreed-upon methodology outlined in the
26	contract with the third-party evaluator.
27	(F) The sharing of student data shall be in accordance
28	with requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C.
29	§ 1232(g), as in effect on January 1, 2011, and shall be for the sole purpose
30	of conducting the evaluation.
31	(G) All parties shall preserve the confidentiality of such
32	information as required by law.
33	(H) May solicit grants or donations to provide for any
34	costs that may be associated for this evaluation.
35	(g)(l) To qualify his or her child for a scholarship from an eligible
36	nonprofit scholarship-funding organization, a parent shall select an eligible

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1	private school and apply for the admission of his or her child.
2	(2) The parent shall inform the child's school district when the
3	parent withdraws his or her child to attend an eligible private school.
4	(3) Any student participating in the scholarship program shall
5	remain in attendance throughout the school year unless excused by the
6	eligible private school for illness or other good cause.
7	(4) Each parent and each eligible student has an obligation to
8	the eligible private school to comply with the eligible private school's
9	published policies.
10	(5)(A) Upon receipt of a scholarship warrant from the eligible
11	nonprofit scholarship-funding organization, the parent to whom the
12	scholarship warrant is made must restrictively endorse the scholarship
13	warrant to the eligible private school for deposit into the account of the
14	eligible private school.
15	(B) The parent may not designate any entity or individual
16	associated with the participating eligible private school as the parent's
17	attorney in fact to endorse a scholarship warrant.
18	(C) A participant who fails to comply with this
19	subdivision (g)(5) forfeits the scholarship.
20	(h) An eligible private school may be sectarian or nonsectarian and
21	shall:
22	(1) Comply with all requirements for private schools
23	participating in state school choice scholarship programs;
24	(2) Provide to the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
25	organization, upon request, all documentation required for the student's
26	participation, including the eligible private school's and student's fee
27	<u>schedules;</u>
28	(3) Be academically accountable to the parent for meeting the
29	educational needs of the student by:
30	(A) At a minimum, annually providing to the parent a
31	written explanation of the student's progress; and
32	(B)(i) Annually administering or making provision for
33	students participating in the scholarship program to either take a nationally
34	norm-referenced test or take statewide assessments under Arkansas
35	Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Act.
36	(ii) Students with disabilities for whom

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1	standardized testing is not appropriate as stated in the students
2	individualized education plan are exempt from this requirement. However, the
3	participating eligible private school must prepare a portfolio that provides
4	information to the parent or parents of a student's progress each year.
5	(iii) A participating eligible private school shall
6	report a student's scores to the parent and to the independent research
7	organization selected by the Department of Education as described in
8	subdivision (f)(21) of this section in accordance with the requirements of
9	the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g;
10	(4) Comply with all requirements and laws for private schools in
11	Arkansas; and
12	(5)(A) Meet the requirements of this subsection.
13	(B) The inability of an eligible private school to meet
14	the requirements of this subsection shall constitute a basis for the
15	ineligibility of the private school to participate in the scholarship program
16	as determined by the Department of Education.
17	(i) The Department of Finance and Administration shall:
18	(1) By July 15, 2011, and by March 15 each year thereafter,
19	list the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations;
20	(2) Annually verify the eligibility of nonprofit scholarship-
21	funding organizations;
22	(3) Annually verify the eligibility of expenditures as provided
23	in subdivision (f)(4) of this section using the audit required by subdivision
24	(f)(13) of this section;
25	(4) Notify an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
26	organization of any of the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
27	organization's identified students who are receiving corporate income tax
28	credit scholarships from other eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
29	organizations; and
30	(5) Require quarterly reports by an eligible nonprofit
31	scholarship-funding organization regarding the number of students
32	participating in the scholarship program, the eligible private schools at
33	which the students are enrolled, and other information deemed necessary by
34	the Department of Finance and Administration.
35	(j)(1) The amount of a scholarship provided to any student for any
36	single school year by an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization

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1	from eligible contributions shall not exceed three thousand seven hundred
2	fifty dollars (\$3,750) for a scholarship awarded to a student enrolled in an
3	eligible private school.
4	(2)(A) Payment of the scholarship by the eligible nonprofit
5	scholarship-funding organization shall be by individual warrant made payable
6	to the student's parent.
7	(B) If the parent chooses that his or her child attend an
8	eligible private school, the warrant must be delivered by the eligible
9	nonprofit scholarship-funding organization to the eligible private school of
10	the parent's choice, and the parent shall restrictively endorse the warrant
11	to the eligible private school.
12	(C) An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization
13	shall ensure that the parent to whom the warrant is made restrictively
14	endorsed the warrant to the eligible private school for deposit into the
15	account of the eligible private school.
16	(3) An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization shall
17	obtain verification from the eligible private school of a student's continued
18	attendance at the eligible private school before each scholarship payment.
19	(4) Payment of the scholarship shall be made by the eligible
20	nonprofit scholarship-funding organization no less frequently than on a
21	quarterly basis.
22	(k)(l)(A) If the income tax credit under this section is not fully
23	used in any one (1) year because of insufficient tax liability on the part of
24	the eligible taxpayer, the unused amount may be carried forward for a period
25	not to exceed three (3) years.
26	(B) An eligible taxpayer that seeks to carry forward an
27	unused amount of the income tax credit under this section must submit an
28	application for allocation of tax credits or carryforward credits as required
29	in subsection (e) of this section in the year that the eligible taxpayer
30	intends to use the carryforward.
31	(C) This carryforward applies to all approved eligible
32	contributions made after January 1, 2011.
33	(D) An eligible taxpayer may not convey, assign, or
34	transfer the income tax credit under this section to another entity unless
35	all of the assets of the eligible taxpayer are conveyed, assigned, or
36	transferred in the same transaction.

14

1	(2) An application for an income tax credit under this section
2	shall be submitted to the Department of Finance and Administration on forms
3	established by rule of the department.
4	(3) The Department of Finance and Administration and the
5	Department of Education shall develop a cooperative agreement to assist in
6	the administration of this section.
7	(4) The Department of Finance and Administration shall adopt
8	rules necessary to administer this section, including rules establishing
9	application forms and procedures and governing the allocation of tax credits
10	and carryforward credits under this section on a first-come, first-served
11	basis.
12	(5) An eligible taxpayer claiming a credit granted by this
13	section shall not take a deduction under the Arkansas income tax law or the
14	premium tax law for the same contribution.
15	
16	SECTION 2. Section 1 of this act is effective for tax years beginning
17	<u>on or after January 1, 2011.</u>
18	
19	SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
19 20	<u>SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the</u> <u>General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that attendance at a private school</u>
20	General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that attendance at a private school
20 21	General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that attendance at a private school is often cost prohibitive for many Arkansas children; that these children
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20 21 22 23 24 25	General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that attendance at a private school is often cost prohibitive for many Arkansas children; that these children should be allowed to attend a private school; that providing scholarships would allow many to attend private schools who are not currently financially able to do so; and that allowing an income tax credit would encourage donations that could be used for scholarships for these children. Therefore,
20 21 22 23 24 25 26	General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that attendance at a private school is often cost prohibitive for many Arkansas children; that these children should be allowed to attend a private school; that providing scholarships would allow many to attend private schools who are not currently financially able to do so; and that allowing an income tax credit would encourage donations that could be used for scholarships for these children. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary
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