

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013
4
5 By: Representative Bell
6

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2076

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE ARKANSAS
9 ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; TO SUPPORT
10 STATE GOALS FOR INCREASING THE COLLEGE COMPLETION
11 RATE FOR STUDENTS RECEIVING AN ACADEMIC CHALLENGE
12 SCHOLARSHIP; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 TO PROMOTE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE
16 ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP
17 PROGRAM AND TO SUPPORT STATE GOALS FOR
18 INCREASING THE COLLEGE COMPLETION RATE
19 FOR STUDENTS RECEIVING AN ACADEMIC
20 CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP.
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-85-204, definitions for the Arkansas
27 Academic Challenge Scholarship, is amended to add an additional subsection to
28 read as follows:

29 (23) "Immediate family" means a person's spouse, child, parent or
30 guardian, sibling, grandparent, and grandchild whether related by blood,
31 adoption, or marriage;
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33 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(2)(A), concerning the amount of
34 aggregate scholarship award amounts for nontraditional students, is amended
35 to read as follows:

36 (2)(A) The department shall award an aggregate amount of



1 scholarship awards to nontraditional students ~~beginning with the 2010-2011~~
 2 ~~academic year of:~~

3 (i) Twelve ~~twelve~~ million dollars (\$12,000,000);
 4 plus

5 (ii) Any funding available under § 6-85-222.
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7 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 85, Subchapter 2, is amended
 8 to add an additional section to read as follows:

9 6-85-222. Repayment of scholarship.

10 (a) A recipient under this subchapter shall become immediately liable
 11 to the Department of Higher Education for the sum of all awards made to that
 12 recipient under the program, without interest, if the Department of Higher
 13 Education determines that the recipient:

14 (1) Is no longer enrolled in an approved institution of higher
 15 education; and

16 (2) Has not obtained:

17 (A) A certificate from a qualified certificate program;

18 (B) An associate's degree;

19 (C) A nursing degree; or

20 (D) A baccalaureate degree.

21 (b) A recipient shall annually verify to the Department of Higher
 22 Education his or her:

23 (1) Enrollment status in a qualified certificate program,
 24 associate program, or baccalaureate degree program; and

25 (2) Current home and work address if he or she is employed; and

26 (3) Any additional information requested by the Department of
 27 Higher Education for the purpose of contacting the recipient concerning the
 28 requirements of this section.

29 (c)(1) Subject to a waiver or deferral under subsection (d) of this
 30 section, the Department of Higher Education shall collect the amount due from
 31 the student under this section.

32 (2)(A) The amount owed under this section shall be set off from
 33 any state tax refund due the student.

34 (B) When the Department of Higher Education notifies a
 35 student to repay all or part of the scholarship under this section, the
 36 Department of Higher Education shall also notify the Department of Finance

1 and Administration, which shall administer the setoff under § 26-36-305.

2 (d) The Department of Higher Education may waive or defer all or part
3 of repayment under this section in the event of:

4 (1) The Department of Higher Education's grant of a leave of
5 absence for the recipient under § 6-85-210;

6 (2) The recipient's loss of employment;

7 (3) The death of the recipient or a member of the recipient's
8 immediate family;

9 (4) A medical condition of the recipient or a member of the
10 recipient's immediate family:

11 (A) That on the basis of a physician's good-faith judgment
12 necessitates the recipient or the recipient's immediate family member to be
13 hospitalized or receive outpatient or home-based medical care or recuperation
14 until released by the attending physician; or

15 (B) From which death is possible or imminent; or

16 (5) Another cause approved by the Department of Higher
17 Education.

18 (e)(1)(A) The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
19 promulgate rules to implement this section, including without limitation a
20 standard form a student shall sign before accepting the scholarship award
21 that acknowledges the requirements of this section.

22 (f) Except for repayments of scholarships awarded to nursing school
23 recipients under § 6-85-213, all amounts repaid under this section shall be:

24 (1) Maintained in a trust account and accounted for in the same
25 manner as the net proceeds from the state lottery that the Department of
26 Higher Education receives under § 23-115-801; and

27 (2) Used only to award scholarships to nontraditional students
28 under this subchapter.

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