

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

*As Engrossed: H3/20/13*

# 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.  
13  
14

## 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.  
21  
22  
23

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
25

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;  
32

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) The Department of Higher Education shall comply with  
35 the provisions of § 26-36-301 et seq. for collection of the debt through a  
36 setoff.

