

1 State of Arkansas  
2 89th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2013  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2284

5 By: Representative Hammer  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOLARSHIP  
9 AWARDS UNDER THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE  
10 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, PART 2; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY;  
11 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12  
13

## Subtitle

14 TO AMEND THE DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOLARSHIP  
15 AWARDS UNDER THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC  
16 CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, PART 2;  
17 AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.  
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
22

23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-85-204, concerning definitions for the  
24 Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, Part 2, is amended to add an  
25 additional subdivision to read as follows:

26 (23) "Two-year approved institution of higher education" means  
27 an approved:

28 (A) Technical college or community college under the  
29 Arkansas Technical and Community College System;

30 (B) Branch campus of a four-year approved institution of  
31 higher education; or

32 (C) Nursing school.  
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34 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(1), concerning the scholarship  
35 award amount for a full-time recipient at a four-year institution of higher  
36 education, is amended to read as follows:



1 (e)(1)(A) Beginning with the ~~2011-2012~~ 2013-2014 academic year, the  
 2 Department of Higher Education shall distribute scholarship ~~award amount~~  
 3 awards under this subchapter for an academic year for a full-time traditional  
 4 or nontraditional recipient ~~enrolled in a four-year approved institution of~~  
 5 ~~higher education is four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500)~~ as provided  
 6 under § 6-85-222.

7  
 8 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(2)(A), concerning scholarship  
 9 award amounts, is amended to read as follows:

10 (2)(A) The department shall award an aggregate amount of  
 11 scholarship awards to nontraditional students ~~beginning with the 2010-2011~~  
 12 ~~academic year~~ of twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000), plus any additional  
 13 amount authorized by law.

14  
 15 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(3) is repealed.

16 ~~(3) The scholarship award for a full-time student enrolled in~~  
 17 ~~one (1) of the following institutions of higher education is one half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of~~  
 18 ~~the scholarship award amount for a full-time undergraduate student enrolled~~  
 19 ~~in a four-year approved institution of higher education:~~

20 ~~(A) A two-year approved institution of higher education;~~

21 ~~(B) A branch campus of a four-year approved institution of~~  
 22 ~~higher education; or~~

23 ~~(C) An approved nursing school.~~

24  
 25 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 85, Subchapter 2, is amended  
 26 to add an additional section to read as follows:

27 6-85-222. Scholarship award distribution.

28 (a) The Department of Higher Education shall award scholarships under  
 29 this subchapter for an academic year but shall distribute the awards as  
 30 provided under this section after the last day to drop a class at an approved  
 31 institution of higher education in each fall and spring semester.

32 (b) For a recipient who has a minimum composite ACT score of twenty-  
 33 one (21) or higher or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent and a high  
 34 school grade point average of 2.75 or higher if enrolled in the first  
 35 semester as a first-time freshman or a postsecondary grade point average of  
 36 2.75 or higher if enrolled in a subsequent semester, the annual scholarship

1 award amount is:

2 (1) Two thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$2,250) for a  
3 recipient to attend a two-year approved institution of higher education,  
4 distributed as:

5 (A) One thousand dollars (\$1,000) in the first semester  
6 the recipient is enrolled; and

7 (B) One thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$1,250) in the  
8 second semester the recipient is enrolled; and

9 (2)(A) Three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) for a  
10 recipient to attend a four-year approved institution of higher education,  
11 distributed as one thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$1,750) each  
12 semester.

13 (B) A recipient under subdivision (b)(1) of this section  
14 who attends two (2) years at a two-year approved institution of higher  
15 education and maintains or exceeds a minimum postsecondary grade point  
16 average of 2.75 may transfer to a four-year approved institution of higher  
17 education and receive the scholarship award amount under subdivision  
18 (b)(2)(A) of this section.

19 (c) For a recipient who has a minimum composite ACT score of nineteen  
20 (19) or twenty (20) or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent and a high  
21 school grade point average of 2.50 or higher if enrolled in the first  
22 semester as a first-time freshman or a postsecondary grade point average of  
23 2.50 if enrolled in a subsequent semester, the annual scholarship award  
24 amount is:

25 (1) Two thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$2,250) for a  
26 recipient to attend a two-year approved institution of higher education in  
27 the recipient's first year of enrollment, distributed as:

28 (A) Eight hundred dollars (\$800) in the first semester of  
29 each year; and

30 (B) One thousand four hundred fifty dollars (\$1,450) in  
31 the second semester of each year;

32 (2) One thousand dollars (\$1,000) for a recipient to attend a  
33 four-year approved institution of higher education in the recipient's first  
34 year of enrollment, distributed as five hundred dollars (\$500) in each  
35 semester;

36 (3) One thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) for a recipient

1 to attend a four-year approved institution of higher education in the  
2 recipient's second year of enrollment, distributed as seven hundred fifty  
3 dollars (\$750) each semester;

4 (4) Three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) for a recipient  
5 to attend a four-year approved institution of higher education in the  
6 recipient's third year of enrollment, distributed as:

7 (A) One thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) in the  
8 first semester; and

9 (B) Two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in the second semester;

10 and

11 (5) Four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500) for a recipient  
12 to attend a four-year approved institution of higher education in the  
13 recipient's fourth year of enrollment, distributed as:

14 (A) Two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in the first semester;

15 and

16 (B) Two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) in the  
17 second semester.

18 (d) First and second semesters shall be consecutive except that the  
19 following semesters are not counted:

20 (1) A summer semester; or

21 (2) A semester for which the department has granted a waiver of  
22 continuing eligibility and the student is not enrolled.

23 (e)(1) The department shall not distribute funds in the second  
24 semester of an academic year if the recipient has not maintained continuing  
25 eligibility for the scholarship for the second semester.

26 (2) Scholarship award amounts that are not paid in the second  
27 semester of an academic year due to a recipient's failure to maintain  
28 continuing eligibility shall be added to the aggregate amount of scholarship  
29 awards for nontraditional students under § 6-85-212(e)(2).

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31 SECTION 6. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
32 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that increasing the number of  
33 Arkansans obtaining postsecondary credentials is critical to the economic  
34 health of the state and its citizens; that the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery  
35 provides the opportunity for tens of thousands of Arkansans to obtain  
36 postsecondary education; that the deadline for scholarship applications is

1 June 1, 2013; that the financial integrity of the Arkansas Scholarship  
2 Lottery is critical to the continued existence of the scholarships; and that  
3 this act is immediately necessary because the Department of Higher Education  
4 must promulgate rules to implement this act before June 1, 2013, in order to  
5 provide eligible Arkansans the opportunity to apply for the scholarship.  
6 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately  
7 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall  
8 become effective on:

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

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

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

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