

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 457

5 By: Senator B. Davis  
6 By: Representatives J. Mayberry, Ennett  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE  
10 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - PART 2; TO EXPAND ELIGIBILITY  
11 FOR THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP  
12 PROGRAM - PART 2 TO INCLUDE A STUDENT WHO IS ACCEPTED  
13 INTO AN APPROVED COMPREHENSIVE TRANSITION AND  
14 POSTSECONDARY PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

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18 TO EXPAND ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ARKANSAS  
19 ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM -  
20 PART 2 TO INCLUDE A STUDENT WHO IS  
21 ACCEPTED INTO AN APPROVED COMPREHENSIVE  
22 TRANSITION AND POSTSECONDARY PROGRAM.  
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-85-204, concerning definitions under the  
28 Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program – Part 2, is amended to add  
29 an additional subdivision to read as follows:

30 (28) "Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Program" means  
31 a program approved by the United States Department of Education as defined in  
32 34 CFR § 668.230 et seq.  
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34 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-85-206(3)(A), concerning admission as a  
35 full-time or part-time student to be eligible for the Arkansas Academic  
36 Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to read as follows:



1 (3)(A) The applicant is accepted for admission as a full-time  
2 student or part-time student ~~at~~:

3 (i) ~~At an~~ At an approved institution of higher  
4 education in a program of study that leads to or is creditable toward:

5 (a) A baccalaureate degree;

6 (b) An associate degree;

7 (c) A certificate from a qualified certificate  
8 program; or

9 (d) A graduate-level or professional degree;

10 ~~or~~  
11 (ii) ~~At an~~ At an approved school of nursing in a  
12 program of study that leads to a nursing diploma under § 6-85-213; or

13 (iii) In a comprehensive transition and  
14 postsecondary program.

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16 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-85-210(a)(1), concerning continuing  
17 eligibility criteria for an Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 (a)(1)(A) A recipient who meets continuing eligibility criteria under  
20 this subchapter shall receive a scholarship for one (1) academic year  
21 renewable annually until the recipient has earned one hundred twenty (120)  
22 semester credit hours or has received a scholarship under this subchapter for  
23 eight (8) semesters, whichever occurs first.

24 (B)(i) A recipient may continue to receive a scholarship  
25 after he or she has earned one hundred twenty (120) semester credit hours,  
26 ~~but not more than one hundred thirty (130) semester credit hours,~~ if the  
27 student is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program that requires more than  
28 one hundred twenty (120) semester credit hours as provided under § 6-61-232.

29 (ii) The Division of Higher Education, in  
30 conjunction with the approved institution of higher education at which the  
31 recipient is enrolled, shall determine the maximum period for renewal of a  
32 scholarship under this subchapter.

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34 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 85, Subchapter 2, is amended  
35 to add an additional section to read as follows:

36 6-85-222. Additional eligibility requirements for Comprehensive

1 Transition and Postsecondary Program student.

2 (a) In addition to the requirements of § 6-85-206, an applicant is  
3 eligible for an Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship as a Comprehensive  
4 Transition and Postsecondary Program student if the applicant has:

5 (1) Completed high school in an Arkansas high school in  
6 accordance with the requirements of the applicant's individualized education  
7 program under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §  
8 1400 et seq. or accommodations made for the applicant under section 504 of  
9 the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794; and

10 (2) Been accepted for admission to and enrolled in an approved  
11 institution of higher education eligible program of study within thirty-six  
12 (36) months of completing high school.

13 (b) To maintain eligibility for an Arkansas Academic Challenge  
14 Scholarship under this section, a recipient shall:

15 (1) Maintain continual enrollment in the approved institution of  
16 higher education eligible program of study in which the recipient is  
17 enrolled; and

18 (2) Make satisfactory academic progress in the approved  
19 institution of higher education eligible program of study in which the  
20 recipient is enrolled.

21 (c)(1) A scholarship under this section shall be renewed until the  
22 recipient:

23 (A) Earns a bachelor's degree; or

24 (B) Attempts a total of one hundred thirty (130) semester  
25 hours within eight (8) semesters.

26 (2) If the recipient's eligible program of study under this  
27 section requires more than one hundred thirty (130) semester credit hours to  
28 complete, the Division of Higher Education, in conjunction with the approved  
29 institution of higher education program at which the recipient is enrolled,  
30 shall determine the maximum period for renewal of a scholarship under  
31 subdivision (c)(1) of this section.

32 (d) A recipient of a scholarship under this section who loses  
33 eligibility for the scholarship is not eligible to reapply to receive the  
34 scholarship.

35 (e)(1) The division may approve a scholarship hold for a Comprehensive  
36 Transition and Postsecondary Program student for the following reasons:

1                   (A) A medical condition of the student or a member of the  
 2 student's immediate family that, on the basis of a physician's good-faith  
 3 judgment, necessitates the student or the student's immediate family member  
 4 to be hospitalized or receive outpatient or home-based medical care or to  
 5 recuperate until released by the attending physician; or

6                   (B) A personal or family emergency that requires the  
 7 student to:

8                               (i) Attend the funeral of an immediate family  
 9 member; or

10                              (ii) Visit a relative of the student if the relative  
 11 has a medical condition in which death is possible or imminent.

12                   (2) A student who is approved for a scholarship hold under  
 13 subdivision (e)(1) of this section shall maintain eligibility requirements  
 14 under this section and § 6-85-206 in order to be eligible for a scholarship  
 15 hold.

16                   (f) A scholarship granted to a Comprehensive Transition and  
 17 Postsecondary Program student under this section shall be applied to only one  
 18 (1) approved institution of higher education at a time.

19                   (g) As used in this section:

20                               (1) "Approved institution of higher education program" means  
 21 only the following programs within institutions of higher education:

22                                       (A) Arkansas State University – H.O.W.L. Transition  
 23 Program;

24                                       (B) South Arkansas Community College – Academic and Career  
 25 Achievement Program;

26                                       (C) University of Arkansas – EMPOWER Program; and

27                                       (D) University of Arkansas – Pulaski Technical College –  
 28 3D Program;

29                               (2) "Eligible program of study" means a postsecondary program  
 30 that:

31                                       (A) Has received the Comprehensive Transition and  
 32 Postsecondary Program designation from the United States Department of  
 33 Education;

34                                       (B) Is offered by an approved institution of higher  
 35 education that assists students with disabilities who have completed high  
 36 school and who need a system of education and support services to access and

1 obtain postsecondary education; and

2 (C) Includes an individualized program of study for up to  
3 four (4) years that is designed to provide postsecondary activities on  
4 campus, including without limitation:

5 (i) Academic activities;

6 (ii) Career development;

7 (iii) Career exploration; and

8 (iv) Independent living skills; and

9 (3) "Student with a disability" means an individual:

10 (A) Has a cognitive impairment characterized by  
11 significant limitations in:

12 (i) Intellectual and cognitive functioning; or

13 (ii) Adaptive behavior as expressed in the following  
14 skills:

15 (a) Conceptual skills;

16 (b) Social skills; or

17 (c) Practical adaptive skills;

18 (B) Is currently, or was formerly, eligible for special  
19 education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities  
20 Education Act, 20 U.S.C., § 1400 et seq., including a student who was  
21 determined to be eligible for special education or related services under the  
22 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C., § 1400 et seq., but  
23 was home-schooled or attended private school; and

24 (C) Maintains an acceptable standing within the  
25 Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Program that is evaluated by  
26 standards set forth in 34 CFR § 668.230 et seq. and the approved institution  
27 of higher education program in which the student is enrolled.

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