

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

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 462

4  
5 By: Senators Elliott, L. Chesterfield  
6 By: Representatives Murdock, Love, F. Allen, Fielding, V. Flowers, M. Hodges, Nicks, K. Ferguson,  
7 Scott, Richardson, Ennett, Springer

## For An Act To Be Entitled

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9  
10 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE  
11 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - PART 2; TO AMEND THE LAW WITH  
12 RESPECT TO AWARDS GRANTED UNDER THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC  
13 CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - PART 2; AND FOR OTHER  
14 PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

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18 TO AMEND THE LAW WITH RESPECT TO AWARDS  
19 GRANTED UNDER THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC  
20 CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - PART 2.

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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-85-206, concerning basic eligibility  
26 requirements for a student applying for an Arkansas Academic Challenge  
27 Scholarship, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

28 (12) The applicant has:

29 (A) Achieved a high school grade point average of at least  
30 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; or

31 (B) Received a minimum composite score of nineteen (19) on  
32 the ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent.

33  
34 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e), concerning scholarship award  
35 amounts for recipients of an Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship, is  
36 amended to read as follows:



1           (e)(1)(A) ~~Beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year, The Division of~~  
 2 Higher Education shall determine annually the scholarship award amount under  
 3 this subchapter for an academic year for a full-time recipient enrolled in a  
 4 four-year approved institution of higher education by dividing evenly the  
 5 amount of funding available for the scholarship among eligible applicants ~~is+~~

6                           ~~(i) One thousand dollars (\$1,000) for a recipient~~  
 7 ~~who has earned less than twenty seven (27) semester credit hours;~~

8                           ~~(ii) Four thousand dollars (\$4,000) for a recipient~~  
 9 ~~who has earned at least twenty seven (27) semester credit hours but less than~~  
 10 ~~fifty seven (57) semester credit hours;~~

11                           ~~(iii) Four thousand dollars (\$4,000) for a recipient~~  
 12 ~~who has earned at least fifty seven (57) semester credit hours but less than~~  
 13 ~~eighty seven (87) semester credit hours; and~~

14                           ~~(iv)(a) Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for a~~  
 15 ~~recipient who has earned at least eighty seven (87) semester credit hours but~~  
 16 ~~no more than one hundred twenty (120) semester credit hours unless the~~  
 17 ~~recipient is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program that requires more~~  
 18 ~~than one hundred twenty (120) semester credit hours, but not more than one~~  
 19 ~~hundred thirty (130) semester credit hours, as provided under § 6-61-232,~~  
 20 ~~then up to the number of credit hours required to complete the baccalaureate~~  
 21 ~~program.~~

22                           ~~(b)(B)~~ A recipient shall receive no more than  
 23 one (1) year of the scholarship provided under subdivision ~~(e)(1)(A)(iv)(a)~~  
 24 (e)(1)(A) of this section unless the recipient is enrolled in a baccalaureate  
 25 degree program that requires more than one hundred twenty (120) semester  
 26 credit hours as provided under § 6-61-232.

27                           ~~(e)(1)(C)(i)~~ A recipient who is eligible to  
 28 receive the scholarship under subdivision ~~(e)(1)(A)(iv)(a)~~ (e)(1)(A) of this  
 29 section may receive the scholarship while enrolled in a semester as a part-  
 30 time student.

31                           ~~(2)(ii)~~ The scholarship amount for the  
 32 semester in which a recipient is enrolled as a part-time student under  
 33 subdivision ~~(e)(1)(A)(iv)(e)(1)~~ (e)(1)(C)(i) of this section shall be  
 34 prorated by the number of credit hours in which the recipient is enrolled.

35                           ~~(B)(D)~~ The ~~Division of Higher Education~~ division shall not  
 36 accept new applications for scholarships for current achiever students under

1 § 6-85-209 after June 1, 2012.

2 ~~(C)(i) To determine the correct scholarship award amount~~  
3 ~~based on credit hours, a first-time recipient shall submit a current college~~  
4 ~~or university transcript if the first-time recipient has earned any semester~~  
5 ~~credit hours to the division no later than a date determined by the division~~  
6 ~~prior to the academic year for which the first-time recipient will receive an~~  
7 ~~initial scholarship award.~~

8 ~~(ii) A first-time recipient who does not submit a~~  
9 ~~transcript to the division on or before June 1 shall receive the award amount~~  
10 ~~under subdivision (c)(1)(A)(i) of this section.~~

11 ~~(D)(i) An applicant may elect for the earned semester~~  
12 ~~credit hours under subdivision (c)(1)(A) of this section to be only those~~  
13 ~~semester credit hours earned after graduating from high school or obtaining a~~  
14 ~~high school equivalency diploma approved by the Adult Education Section.~~

15 ~~(ii) If an applicant makes the election under~~  
16 ~~subdivision (c)(1)(D)(i) of this section, any semester credit hours earned~~  
17 ~~through concurrent credit or any other method before graduating high school~~  
18 ~~or obtaining a high school equivalency diploma approved by the Adult~~  
19 ~~Education Section shall not be counted as earned semester credit hours for~~  
20 ~~the purposes of determining a recipient's scholarship award amount under~~  
21 ~~subdivision (c)(1)(A) of this section.~~

22 (2)(A) The division shall award an aggregate amount of  
23 scholarship awards to nontraditional students beginning with the 2017-2018  
24 academic year of up to fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000).

25 (B)(i) The division shall return to the Office of the  
26 Arkansas Lottery the excess funding, if any, for scholarship awards under  
27 this subchapter the division received under § 23-115-801.

28 (ii) The office shall deposit any funds received  
29 from the division under this subdivision (e)(2)(B) into a trust account  
30 established under § 23-115-801(b).

31 (C) Priority for scholarships awarded to nontraditional  
32 students and current achiever students is based on:

33 (i) The applicant's level of progress toward  
34 completion of a certificate, an associate degree, a nursing diploma, a  
35 baccalaureate degree, or a graduate-level or professional degree; or

36 (ii) Other criteria established by the division.

1           (3) The division shall determine annually the scholarship award  
 2 for an academic year for a full-time student enrolled in one (1) of the  
 3 following institutions of higher education ~~is one thousand dollars (\$1,000)~~  
 4 ~~for the first year and three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for the second year:~~

- 5                   (A) A two-year approved institution of higher education;  
 6                   (B) A branch campus of a four-year approved institution of  
 7 higher education; or  
 8                   (C) An approved nursing school.

9           (4) The scholarship award amount for a part-time student  
 10 recipient shall be:

11                   (A) One-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the award amount for a full-time  
 12 student recipient, if the recipient is enrolled in at least six (6) semester  
 13 hours but less than nine (9) semester hours; or

14                   (B) Three-quarters ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) of the award amount for a full-time  
 15 student recipient, if the recipient is enrolled in at least nine (9) semester  
 16 hours but less than the number of hours required for a full-time student  
 17 recipient.

18           ~~(5) A current recipient who maintains eligibility for the~~  
 19 ~~scholarship under this subchapter shall continue to receive the scholarship~~  
 20 ~~award amount first awarded to the recipient.~~

21           ~~(6)~~(5) The division shall give priority for a scholarship award  
 22 to a full-time or part-time student:

23                   (A) Who meets the eligibility requirements under this  
 24 subchapter; and

25                   (B) Whose parent, by birth or legal adoption:

26                           (i) Was a resident of the State of Arkansas at the  
 27 time that person entered the service of the United States Armed Forces or  
 28 whose official residence is in Arkansas; and

29                           (ii) Was a member of the United States Armed Forces  
 30 who was killed while performing military duty:

31                                   (a) In a status identified under 32 U.S.C. §  
 32 101 et seq. or 10 U.S.C. § 101 et seq. as they existed on January 1, 2011; or

33                                   (b) In state active duty status.

34           (6) The scholarship award amounts under this subsection are not  
 35 guaranteed year to year for an academic year for a full-time recipient  
 36 enrolled in an approved institution of higher education, and are subject to

1 change by the division as necessary.

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