

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1347

5 By: Representative Beck
6 By: Senator J. Dotson
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE A FINANCIAL AID APPEALS PROCESS AND
10 COMMITTEE FOR THE DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND
11 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
13

Subtitle

15 TO CREATE A FINANCIAL AID APPEALS PROCESS
16 AND COMMITTEE FOR THE DIVISION OF HIGHER
17 EDUCATION.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 81, is amended to add an
23 additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 19 – Financial Aid Appeals Process

6-81-1901. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter:

28 (1) "Appeals process" means without limitation:

29 (A) The completion and submission of an appeals
30 application as drafted by the Financial Aid Appeals Committee;

31 (B) The confirmation of eligibility to appeal and the
32 intention to retain appeals eligibility under this subchapter; and

33 (C) The completion of a review by the committee that shall
34 include a determination of eligibility and a final appeals decision;

35 (2) "Eligibility" means without limitation the applicant:

36 (A) Is a bona fide resident of the State of Arkansas;



1 (B) Is enrolled or will be enrolled in a program of study
 2 at an eligible postsecondary institution;

3 (C) Is currently in good standing; and

4 (D) Is not currently under probationary restrictions for
 5 financial aid; and

6 (3) "Financial aid" means scholarships or grants awarded to a
 7 student from public funds, including without limitation:

8 (A) The Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship under § 6-
 9 85-201 et seq.; and

10 (B) Other division scholarship and grant programs, state
 11 general revenues, tuition, and local tax revenue.

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 13 6-81-1902. Creation.

14 There is created the Financial Aid Appeals Committee within the
 15 Division of Higher Education with the authority to administer the Division of
 16 division's appeal process.

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 18 6-81-1903. Financial Aid Appeals Committee.

19 (a) There is established the Financial Aid Appeals Committee, in
 20 conjunction with the Governor's administration, to be composed of five (5)
 21 representatives of the Division of Higher Education, which shall be
 22 responsible for administering the division's appeal process.

23 (b) Members of the committee shall:

24 (1) Promulgate reasonable rules necessary to execute the
 25 provisions of this subchapter, including without limitation rules addressing
 26 the requirements and in conformance with the requirements of the Arkansas
 27 Administrative Procedures Act, § 25-15-201 et seq., and other appropriate
 28 state laws in promulgating and placing rules into effect for a procedure to
 29 resolve disputes arising out of or relating to a student who is no longer
 30 considered eligible to receive a scholarship or grant;

31 (2) Prescribe forms for and regulate the submission of appeals
 32 applications;

33 (3) Determine eligibility of applicants;

34 (4) Approve or reject appeals applications;

35 (5) Manage, operate, and control all funds appropriated or
 36 otherwise contributed for this purpose;

1 (6) Administer final determinations of financial aid appeals
 2 made by the committee; and

3 (7) Report annually to the General Assembly the number of
 4 applications for appeals:

5 (A) Received; and

6 (B) Approved.

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 8 6-81-1904. Eligibility for appeals.

9 The Financial Aid Appeals Committee may make appeals decisions for an
 10 applicant, with each appeal being expressly made subject to the provisions of
 11 this subchapter and § 6-81-1905, if the committee finds that reinstating the
 12 appealed scholarship or grant will benefit the student and finds that:

13 (1) The applicant is a bona fide resident of Arkansas;

14 (2) The applicant is enrolled or will be enrolled in a program
 15 of study at an eligible postsecondary institution;

16 (3) The applicant is currently in good standing;

17 (4) The applicant is not currently under probationary
 18 restrictions for financial aid; and

19 (5) The application for appeal is submitted within two (2)
 20 academic semesters following the initial decision.

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 22 6-81-1905. Exclusions and conditions.

23 (a)(1) In the event an applicant submits an appeal on the basis of
 24 failure to maintain full-time enrollment or the necessary grade point average
 25 during a previous term, the Financial Aid Appeals Committee may approve
 26 proportionate financial aid to be awarded within one (1) semester following
 27 the term during which the applicant failed to maintain full-time enrollment
 28 or the necessary grade point average.

29 (2) Proportionate financial aid awarded following failure to
 30 maintain full-time enrollment under subdivision (a)(1) of this section is
 31 limited to six (6) hours.

32 (b) The committee shall not provide reimbursement for previous terms.