

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1412

5 By: Representative J. Mayberry
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING RULES PROMULGATED BY THE DIVISION
9 OF HIGHER EDUCATION; TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF
10 HIGHER EDUCATION TO PROMULGATE CERTAIN RULES
11 CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDED
12 WITH STATE FUNDS AND LOTTERY PROCEEDS; TO DECLARE AN
13 EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

16 TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF HIGHER
17 EDUCATION TO PROMULGATE CERTAIN RULES
18 CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF
19 SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDED WITH STATE FUNDS AND
20 LOTTERY PROCEEDS; AND TO DECLARE AN
21 EMERGENCY.
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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 Title 6, Chapter 80, Subchapter 1, is amended
28 to add an additional section to read as follows:

29 6-80-109. Division of Higher Education – Rules.

30 (a) The Division of Higher Education shall promulgate or update
31 existing division rules to allow a student who is a recipient of a
32 scholarship to utilize scholarship funds to enroll in and attend courses
33 offered during a summer term at the postsecondary institution in which the
34 student is enrolled.

35 (b) Rules promulgated under this section shall include without
36 limitation requirements concerning:



1 (1) Student eligibility; and

2 (2) The disbursement and administration of scholarship funds
 3 utilized by a student to enroll in and attend courses offered during a summer
 4 term.

5 (c) As used in this section, "scholarship" shall include a scholarship
 6 program that is:

7 (1) Funded with state funds or lottery proceeds; and

8 (2) Administered by the division.

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 10 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-85-204(14), concerning the definition of
 11 "semester" under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is
 12 amended to read as follows:

13 (14)(A) "Semester" means one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of a traditional academic
 14 year at an institution of higher education, or an equivalent approved by the
 15 division, in which a student enrolls for not less than:

16 ~~(A)(i)~~ Fifteen (15) credit hours as a full-time student,
 17 except that in the first semester as a first-time full-time freshman, a
 18 traditional student shall enroll in not less than twelve (12) credit hours;
 19 or

20 ~~(B)(ii)~~ Six (6) credit hours as a part-time student.

21 (B) For purposes of summer courses at an institution of
 22 higher education, a "semester" shall mean the same as is defined by the
 23 division, as required by § 6-80-109;

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 25 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
 26 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Division of Higher
 27 Education must make certain arrangements to facilitate the use of Arkansas
 28 Academic Challenge Scholarship funds for upcoming summer courses; and that
 29 many of these arrangements must occur in time for the 2023-2024 school year.
 30 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being necessary
 31 for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become
 32 effective on July 1, 2023.