

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

As Engrossed: H2/14/23

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1412

5 By: Representative J. Mayberry
6 By: Senator J. English
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING RULES PROMULGATED BY THE DIVISION
10 OF HIGHER EDUCATION; TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF
11 HIGHER EDUCATION TO PROMULGATE CERTAIN RULES
12 CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDED
13 WITH STATE FUNDS AND LOTTERY PROCEEDS; TO DECLARE AN
14 EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
15

Subtitle

16
17
18 TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF HIGHER
19 EDUCATION TO PROMULGATE CERTAIN RULES
20 CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF
21 SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDED WITH STATE FUNDS AND
22 LOTTERY PROCEEDS; AND TO DECLARE AN
23 EMERGENCY.
24
25

26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
27

28 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 80, Subchapter 1, is amended
29 to add an additional section to read as follows:

30 6-80-109. Division of Higher Education – Rules.

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

36 (b) Rules promulgated under this section shall include without



1 limitation requirements concerning:

2 (1) Student eligibility; and

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

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

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

9 (2) Administered by the division.

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

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

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

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

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

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

34
35 /s/J. Mayberry
36